FRANCE PAST AND PRESENT

A POPULAR HISTORY OF FRANCE

by

B. Van Vorst

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A POPULAR HISTORY OF FRANCE

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PREFACE

For the last four years the eyes of the world have been fixed upon France. From the far corners of the earth, from the East and from the West, soldiers have come to fight upon the soil of this country, side by side with the French, against an invasion of the Huns.

Millions of Americans have landed in France. More are coming every day. Many of them have never crossed the ocean before. All of them want to know something about the people with whom they are thrown daily into close contact. Yet it is not a time when men may sit down to study the problems of the past.

The purpose therefore of this little book is to give a rapid review of the history of France, a brief account of the important events which have taken place since the First Battle of the Marne — fought against the Huns in 451 — together with a short presentation of the most eminent people, the great men and women, who have determined these events.

In a word this is a concise summary of the progress of civilization in France, and of the principal movements which have encouraged greater political unity in the country, greater freedom and knowledge among the people, greater chivalry in their customs, greater commerce with the outside world.

(A list of the rulers of France in their chronological order will be found at the end of the book.)

A POPULAR HISTORY OF FRANCE

I. — EARLY DAYS

GAULS AND ROMANS

Long ago France was known under the name of Gaul. Its frontiers, including almost all of Switzerland, and Belgium, reached to the east and to the north as far as the river Rhine.

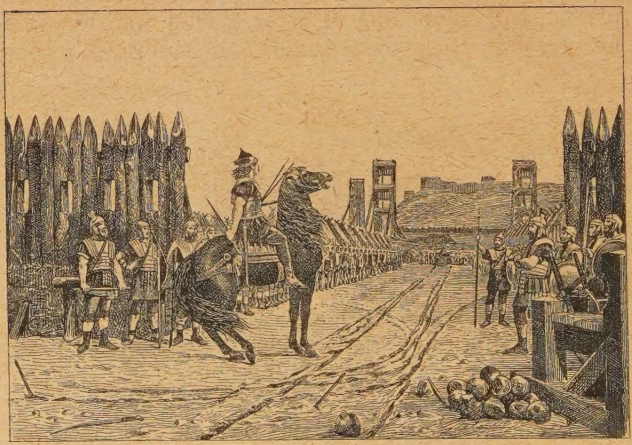
The beauty and the riches of this country were such that the Romans — great explorers and colonisers — who penetrated as far as the valley of the Rhône, wanted to settle and live in this pleasant land, where the sun shone on fertile plains, and where the wine was abundant.

In the year 58 B. C., Junus Cæsar, the greatest of the Roman generals, determined to take entire possession of Gaul.

The inhabitants, or the Gauls, commanded by their famous leader, Vercingetorix, made an heroic stand against this Roman invasion. For eight years they defended their country bravely. Then, finally, in 50, Cæsar's armies, victorious occupied the whole of Gaul, which for 400 years remained under Roman rule.

The two races which were united in this Gallo-Roman civilization showed, as many as two thousand years ago, the very same characteristics which to-day distinguish the French. The Gauls, or Celts, were

idealists, the Romans were law makers; the Gauls were temperamental, they had a contempt of death, they were extremely valiant, they believed in the immortality of the soul and they studied philosophy, ethics, and the natural sciences. They were generous,



Vercingetorix, Chief of the Gauls, surrenders to Julius Cæsar in 52 B. C.

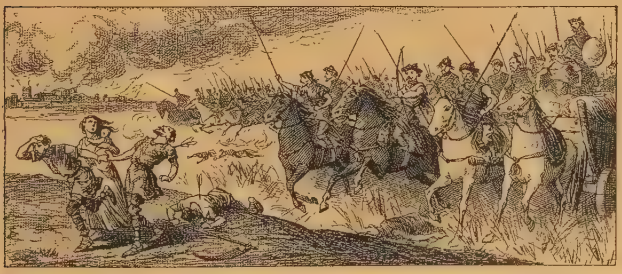
disinterested, lovers of justice, always ready to defend the weak against those who wished to oppress them.

The Romans, on the contrary, were methodical; they preferred to conquer others rather than to give them their freedom. Rome was built by the slaves which the Roman armies had brought back captive from the regions their forces had invaded.

From a material point of view, the influence of the Romans was undoubtedly civilizing : they built bridges, aqueducts and roads of such a rare quality that they are almost indestructible ; they dried the

marshes, and accomplished wonderful improvements in the way of hot baths and plumbing!

The Gauls meanwhile, preoccupied more with ideas than with mechanisms, added many refinements to life: they invented soap and mattresses, and beds, and ornamental carpets, and coats of mail, and the plating and enamelling of silver. They were not only heroic, but they were somewhat dandified: they



The First invasion of Gaul by the Huns.

were proud of their figures. In fact a sort of standard belt existed which was tried publicly on the Gallic youths. Those unable to clasp it over their too ample forms were severely punished!

The Gauls were too great a people to be absorbed by an enemy. In 52 B. C., after the conquest of Gaul by Cæsar, and in spite of this subjection, they did not submit to the Romans. They collaborated rather with them, completing them in certain ways, learning from them in others, and furthering thus the progress of humanity.

When, about 150 years after Christ, the apostles of the new doctrine began to preach Christianity in Gaul, the Romans persecuted them in a horrible man-

ner. Many of these early martyrs : Saint Denis, Sainte Blandine, etc., are commemorated in the history of France.

These courageous souls were tortured and put to death by the Romans ; yet, because of the idealism of the Gauls, the cause rapidly triumphed, and paganism was replaced by Christianity throughout Gaul.

Meanwhile the Roman Empire having passed the moment of its greatest strength was itself to be invaded as its soldiers had invaded other countries.

Hordes of barbarians, pouring down from the north and the east, spread themselves out in the river valleys. Three different peoples came to settle themselves in Gaul : the Visigoths, who took up their abode in the south between the Loire and the Pyrenees, the Burgundians, who remained in the east, between the Rhône and the Alps, and the Franks, who stopped in the north, between the Somme and the Rhine. The *Gallo-Romans* occupied the centre of the country.

As often happens, a fresh invasion of barbarians was now to effect greater unity among these somewhat divided elements.

THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE MARNE

In 451, Attila, the Chief of the Huns, who called himself proudly « the Curse of God », had set out from the Far East with vast armies, whose determination, like that of Von Kluck, almost fifteen hundred years later, was at all costs to reach Paris.

In 451 Paris was only a small town, called Lutèce (Lutetia). The inhabitants were alarmed at the approach of these ferocious barbarians lead by Attila.

They wished to abandon the city. A young shepherdess, Genevieve, acting with an exalted sort of inspiration, exhorted them to remain, and to have faith in the victory of Gaul against the Huns.

In the great battle which took place in the region of the Marne, on the Catalaunic plains, between

Genevieve in 451, during the first Battle of the Marne, exhorts the Parisians.

Troyes and Châlons, Attila was vanquished. He was driven from the country.

To-day Genevieve is beloved as the Patron Saint of Paris. Her name will forever be linked with those of the Poilus, who, in 1914, a second time saved Paris.

The history of France, it may be said, begins with the victory over Attila, this first Battle of the Marne, fought by the Franks and the Gallo-Romans against the Huns in 451.

II — THE MIDDLE AGES

THE MEROVINGIANS

The first king of the Franks, chosen at this time, was Mérovée. He gave his name to the Merovingian dynasty, which from 448 to 751 ruled in this new country.

Baptism of Clovis, the first Christian king of Gaul.

The most important of the descendants of Mérovée was his grandson, Clovis I (481-511). He is to be remembered for two reasons of the greatest importance in French history : A pagan himself, Clovis married a Christian woman, Clothilde, and through her influence, he adopted the Christian Faith. Moreover he established the political unity of Gaul. He conquered the Gallo-Romans (486), the Visigoths (500), the Burgundians (507). He became master of all Gaul.

In 496 he was baptized in Rheims, where since then, almost without exception, the Kings — as long as there were Kings in France — were anointed.

This first effort toward national unity, so successfully undertaken by Clovis, was not to be maintained. When Clovis died, the kingdom remained in the hands of the Franks, but it was broken up into several smaller realms, divided among the descendants of the first Merovingian. This condition of subdivision in the kingdom was to last for over a thousand years, until finally, in 1643, the King, Louis XIV, was to become the absolute monarch of a united kingdom.

Gradually, the grandsons and great-grandsons of Clovis, who were constantly fighting among each other, so far weakened their power that, several hundred years later, when the Arabs invaded Gaul, they were obliged to call upon the people for assistance. A brilliant warrior presented himself : Charles, surnamed the Hammer (le Martel). Under his inspiring leadership (in 732) the Arabs were vanquished at Poitiers.

THE CAROLINGIANS

After this victory, the new Chief became the founder of a dynasty, called the Carolingians or descendants of Charles, or Carolus. For 236 years — from 751 to 987 — this dynasty was to give to France her Kings.

The greatest of the Carolingians, and one of the most illustrious Kings in French history, was Charlemagne (Carolus Magnus, or Charles the Great). He became King in 768. The longest war which he undertook was waged against the Saxons, who were still pagans. This war lasted for 33 years and was finally won by Charlemagne. His other victories made him master of Gaul, of Germania, of Italy and of part of Spain.

On Christmas Day, 800, Charlemagne was crowned in Rome as Emperor of the Occident. His work was one not only of conquest but of organization : he made wise laws for the administration of the various provinces under his dominion, he appointed inspectors to enquire into and study the needs of his people. He sent for learned men from all parts of the world and founded a great number of schools.

Charlemagne, the great Emperor of the Occident.

This period of early medieval history is full of romance. The story of Roland, for example, has been sung in all languages. Returning from a campaign in Spain, Roland was harassed by the enemy in the Pyrenees mountains, on the pass of Roncevaux. With his ivory horn he sounded the cry of distress which Charlemagne heard and answered, alas, too late. Before perishing under the rocks which the enemy hurled upon him, Roland lifted his sword, Durandal, and smote the mountain side with such force that a cleft was made, says the legend. This rift is still called : « Roland's Breach » (*la brêche de Roland*).

At the death of Charlemagne, history was to repeat itself : the empire was once again divided by his quarelling descendants. The Carolingians, whose strength was wasted by their personal jealousies, were not powerful enough to stem a fresh invasion from the north.

THE NORMANS

The Norsmen, or Normans, were Danish and Norwegian pirates, who every year took to the high seas in the spring time, landing on the coasts, sailing

The Normans pillaging a church of Gaul.

up the rivers of their neighbor's countries, which they pillaged and robbed at will.

In 885, twenty thousand Normans, lead by their chiefs, the famous « Vikings », arrived with a fleet of 700 ships, determined to conquer the fertile lands of France.

They laid siege to Paris, which, in those days, was a small town, covering only a little more ground than the island on which Notre-Dame stands to-day.

In spite of their barbaric customs, the Normans had many admirable qualities which still characterize the inhabitants of Normandy : a certain smartness

Gauls (Country) Gauls (City) 9th cent. 11th cent. 12th cent. Philippe the Bold 13th cent. Jeanne de Bourbon

and thrift, an ability to defend their own rights, an almost untiring capacity for work.

Appreciating their strength and their determination to occupy this rich territory, which is the most beautiful farming country in France, the King decided, in the year 911, to form an alliance with them. He gave his daughter in marriage to the Norman chief, Rollon, and a dowry which comprised all of the province of Normandy. Rollon became a Christian and a subject of the King.

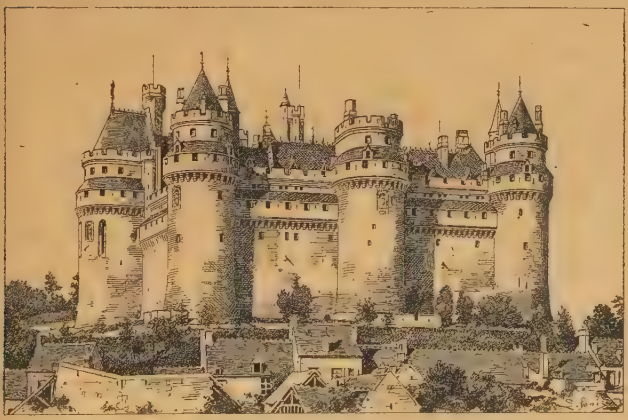
THE CAPETIANS

During the struggle with the Normans a new leader had distinguished himself : Hugues Capet. When the last of the increasingly incompetent Carolingians had been deposed, Hugues Capet, who had won the confidence of the nobles and the people, was chosen to found a new dynasty : the Capetians. They remained in power over three hundred years.

At the time when the Capetians began to reign society was organized according to certain fixed regulations which were known as the « feudal system ».

THE FEUDAL SYSTEM

Little by little, the rich landed proprietors, or Lords, had become as powerful in their own domains as the King was in his. The Dukes of Normandy, of Bur-



The feudal castle of Pierrefonds as it stands, restored, to-day.

gundy, the Counts of Champagne, of Poitou, etc., had their own armed forces; they levied their own taxes, they dispensed justice, they cast the guilty into prison, or condemned them to death if they deemed fit, with an authority which no one could contest.

However, as it was through favor with the King that they had acquired their vast properties, they were obliged to swear allegiance to His Majesty. The King was considered as sovereign of all the Lords, and the Lords were his vassals. They in turn, by the concession of less important lands, made vassals of

certain lords inferior to themselves. This was the Feudal System of the middle ages, which the Capetians found in vogue when they ascended the throne.

The relatively restricted class of exceedingly rich landed proprietors formed the nobility. Certain members of the clergy were also possessed of *fiefs* or domains, which gave them the right to a title. Less privileged than the nobles was the class known as the *bourgeois*, or the merchant class. They inhabited the cities. Beneath them were the *vilains*, or *roturiers*, who lived in the country, but who occupied themselves about the commercial interests of the region. Lowest of all were the serfs, who were practically slaves. They were not allowed to leave the estate of a lord without his permission.

Many of the feudal castles have been ruined but a few still remain, as for example that at Pierrefonds. This medieval aristocratic dwelling or château was built on a hill top or height which dominated the surrounding country and served as a point of observation and defence during the frequent attacks made by hostile neighbors. The principal entrance was flanked by towers. There was an outer wall, surrounding ditches full of water spanned by a draw-bridge; a portcullis or iron door, which could be closed in such a way as to cut off all communication with the outside world.

The walls were crowned with parapets and towers, where the sentinels stood on guard. The parapets were surmounted with battlements which were pierced in such a way as to permit the dropping of hot oil and stones and burning tar upon the enemies who attempted to approach the castle.

In spite of the constant state of war in which the feudal lords spent their days, they surrounded them-

selves with objects of priceless beauty : tapestries, stained glass, carved wood, work of the finest sort wrought in iron, chiseled in silver and in gold.

The interior of these medieval châteaux presented incomparable harmony. Nothing in those days had been vulgarized by the machine; the smallest objects which served for the humblest daily needs were made by hand from the designs of artists.

The troubadors or poets of the middle ages.

Nor was the intellectual progress of the world a matter of indifference to the feudal lords. In the splendid halls of their domains, they assembled the great poets of the day to sing to them, they invited the travellers who had been on pilgrimages to relate the stories of distant lands.

Warriors and patrons of the arts, these great lords, however, thought little of the poor who were dependent upon them for a living. The land, which served continually as a battlefield, was little by little impoverished. Houses were burned, villages destroyed. At last, in the year 1.000, a terrible famine devastated France.

The Church, preoccupied at the vast proportions which the general misery had assumed, decreed what was known as the « Truce of God ». Whatever their quarrels, the people were obliged to interrupt them between Wednesday nights and Monday mornings, nor were they permitted to fight on feast days, and holidays !

THE CRUSADES

During the reign of the Capetians, which lasted 341 years — from 987 to 1328 — many things occurred of importance to France from every point of view. The first of the Capetians, Hugues Capet, established the royal residence in Paris.

In 1066, the Normans under William, surnamed the Conqueror, crossed the Channel and, after the victorious Battle of Hastings, became the masters of England.

The same year saw the beginning of a great religious movement.

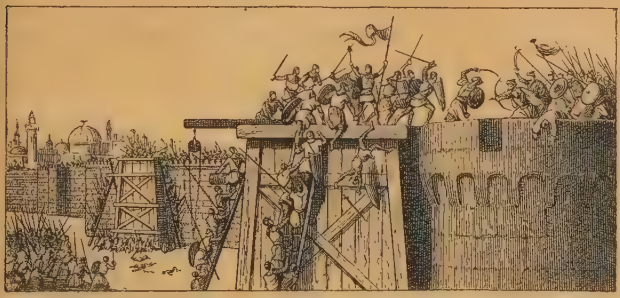
In 1076 the Turks invaded Asia Minor and took Jerusalem. This was the moment to rouse a widespread movement of indignation. The emotions which every man felt at the outrages committed against the Christians and the tomb of Christ, were united in a feeling of common exultation by Peter the Hermit. He was a Frenchman of humble origin. He had been first a soldier, then a husband and a father, before finally becoming a monk who consecrated his life to solitary meditation.

Born in Amiens in 1050, Peter the Hermit had first made the journey to Jerusalem merely to pray at the tomb of the Saviour. The suffering which he witnessed among the Christians who were being martyrised by the Turks, stirred him to the depths of his contemplative soul. He became thenceforth a man of action. He vowed that he would let the world know of the horrors which he had witnessed. He was convinced that, once enlightened, the men of all nations would set out to deliver their afflicted brothers.

Peter the Hermit was a small man, insignificant in

appearance, but his spirit was great and he had an unusual gift of eloquence. Thrilled with the beauty of his mission he visited the towns of Italy and of France, preaching the cause wherever he went.

Finally, in 1095, a great reunion was held at Clermont-Ferrand in Auvergne. Peter the Hermit spoke to the assembled masses ; he related the atrocities



In 1099 the Crusaders stormed and captured Jerusalem.

he had seen, and he told of his own sufferings in Jerusalem. He spoke with that touch of human interest which reaches the hearts of all.

When he had finished, the Pope, Urbain II, made a resounding appeal :

« Think of Jerusalem, » he said, « the Royal City, the Redeemer of Mankind, Jerusalem which was made glorious by the presence of Jesus, consecrated by his Passion, and by his Death, renowned for ever because of his Sepulchre. Jerusalem now implores you to deliver her ! »

Exhorting the French people, the Pope continued :

« Remember the virtue of your ancestors, the

greatness of Charlemagne, of your other Kings. Set out now upon the way ! »

One resounding cry greeted this appeal. From the throats of all, rose the answer : « God wills it ! God wills it ! »

First the lower classes, then the middle classes, then the most powerful princes and priests, and

Crusaders of the XI and XII centuries.

finally women both of the nobility and of the people, determined to undertake the pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

It was decided that the first crusaders were to set out for the Holy Land eight months later, toward the end of August, 1096. But such was the enthusiasm of the people that nothing could keep them back. By the beginning of March three expeditions were already under way : the first was composed of about 100.000 people, the other two of about 20.000 each. Men, women and children, whole families

abandoned their homes, their villages, their interests of every sort, confident that their Faith would carry them triumphant through every difficulty. Every Crusader wore on his forehead, or on his breast, a red cross which gave him his name of crusader, or *crossader*, and which was the emblem of his inspiration.

The second crusade was placed under the guidance

Crusaders of the XIII century.

of a great French man : Godfroy de Bouillon. His contemporaries said of him : « His nobility was shown both in his manner of dealing with the affairs of this world and with those of Heaven ! For ardor in war he resembled his father, who was a gallant soldier, for serving God he had as example his mother. He was compassionate for those who suffered, generous and forgiving toward sinners, humble, gentle, moderate and chaste. » Godfroy de Bouillon is one of the most celebrated and the most sympathetic characters of the Crusades.

On July 15, 1099, after heartrending adventures

and a siege which lasted forty days, Jerusalem was taken by the Crusaders.

(Jerusalem was taken by the British troops on December 11, 1917, after 6 months of fighting against the Turks.)

Godfroy de Bouillon was elected King of Jerusalem. He accepted the responsibilities of such a charge, but he refused the title. He said :

« I could never wear a crown of gold in the very place where our Saviour wore a crown of thorns. »

The Sepulchre where Christ is buried in Jerusalem.

The suffering of the crusaders, before this final victory was achieved, included every form of human misery. The first expeditions had set out for the long journey across Europe without organization or equipment, and without provisions. The routes followed lay across Germany, Hungary and Bulgaria, or through Italy and over the Mediterranean Sea. These vast hordes of people moving like an army through unknown lands, wrought trouble wherever they passed : hungry, they seized what food they could lay hands upon, they pillaged farms and houses. Many of them were massacred by outraged proprietors, many of them fell ill of fever and pest. Finally they were most unwelcome to the reigning King of Jerusalem, who opposed them in every possible manner.

Jerusalem continued to be disputed for centuries by the East and the West. In 1147 a second Crusade was inspired by Bernard, later canonized as Saint Bernard.

Toward the end of the twelfth century the Kings of France and of England, Philippe Auguste and Richard the Lion Hearted, set out upon the Third Crusade.

The most important event which transpired during the Fourth Crusade (1202) was the taking of Constantinople by the French, who remained its masters for over fifty years, giving five rulers to the Empire of the Orient.

Louis IX was the hero of the Seventh Crusade in 1248, and, in 1270, of the Eighth and last Crusade.

Yet, in spite of the multitudes left upon the way during the first crusades, the good accomplished contributed with lasting effect to the progress of civilization. In the first place, this gathering together of masses which included the rich, the poor, scholars, ignorant peasants, feudal lords and their humblest servants, was something entirely new. People of all classes were for the first time united in social fraternity by their belief in a common ideal; the direct influence of the suffering endured during the crusades was democratic.

The feudal lord, his vassals, his warring neighbors, instead of remaining at home to fight against each other, were now travelling on an errand which drew them together in the closest of spiritual bonds. The physical miseries of these exalted pilgrims were agonizing indeed, but the world, through just such sacrifices, became thereafter a better place to live in.

THE ORDERS OF CHIVALRY

Meanwhile, in France, the Church, endeavoring to still further modify the cruel customs which years of constant strife had established, instituted a religious order, known as the order of Chivalry.

A Lord of the middle ages confering upon a page the order of knighthood.

The members of this order, known as the Knights of Chivalry, were pledged to protect the Church and to uphold the weak against the strong.

The training of a gentleman's son, until those days, had been one of physical endurance, which prepared him to defend his honor and his interests. At seven a boy entered the service of some nobleman, as his page. At fifteen, he became equerry. At the age of twenty-one, he was to become a Knight. The ceremony of his initiation was at the same time religious and military. After a night passed in prayer, the young French gentleman appeared before the Lord in whose service he had spent his youth as a page. The noble lord embraced him, touched him with his sword, and pronounced him a Knight.

THE COMMONS

Another movement of extreme importance to be noted during the Capetian dynasty was that made by the people as early as 1130 to assert their individual rights. In a great number of towns the popular indignation had been growing against the oppression of the nobles. Finally these diverse outbursts were organized in the form of societies which were called « communes », or commons : all the members swore that in common they would resist the Lords.

Hundreds of years later this movement of the oppressed against the oppressors was to result in the great French Revolution and in the beheading of the King.

In the early days, on the contrary, the extreme radical tendency was favored by the sovereign : he saw in it a chance to weaken the power of the noblemen who were always an annoyance to him,sometimes even a menace to the throne.

The royal domain in the 12th century was restricted to a comparatively small part of France : the Ile de France, the Orléànais and Picardie. Normandy, after the days of the Battle of Hastings, when the sons of William the Conqueror had become the Kings of England, remained a Normano-English duchy, over which however the King of France retained the rights of suzerainty.

Thus, side by side, four distinct branches of human progress were contributing to the evolution of France : political action which tended ever toward greater national unity ; moral action which emphasized the spiritual importance of chivalry ; intellectual action which increased the possibilities of learning ; social

Vinesman. Gardner. Time of Charles V. Peasant. 14th cent. Courtiers. Lady and her attendants. About 1480. 15th cent.

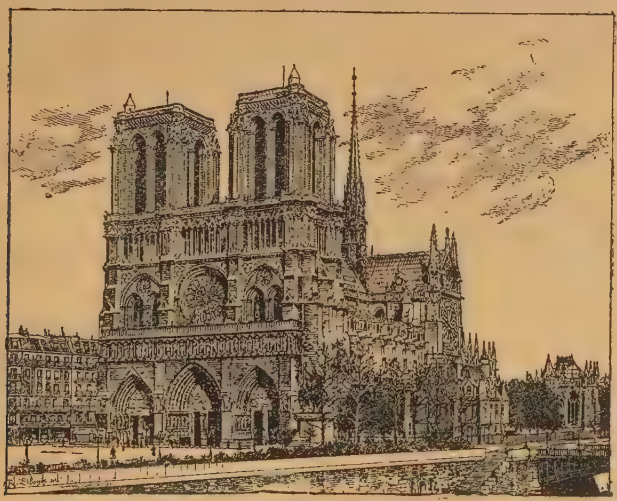
action which encouraged the expression of individual rights. Unity, chivalry, education and liberty, these forms of activity, which date from the middle ages when wars were constant, are characteristic of the civilization of France.

An alliance contracted at about this time, toward the end of the 12th century, was to be the cause of many years of war. Louis VII, one of the great-great-grandsons of Hugues Capet, repudiated his wife. Exceedingly rich, her dowry comprised the provinces of Aquitaine, Périgord, Limousin, Poitou and Angoumois.

Thus, when she married a second time Henry Plantagenet, the future King of England, these vast domains passed into the royal keeping of the English crown. They were to become again the property of the French only after years and years, and many, many wars.

One of the greatest of the Capetian Kings, Philippe Auguste, came to the throne in 1180. His exploits and enterprises were varied. Though he succeeded in winning back the province of Normandy and of Poitou for the crown of France, his chief preoccupation was not war, but peace : he instigated a form of justice known as « the King's Quarantine » : no private

war could be undertaken by the feudal lords until forty days had passed after the incident which had given rise to the dispute. In the interval the King endeavored to discover and punish the culprit respons-



Notre-Dame of Paris, begun in 1163, completed at about 1230.

ible for the aggression. Philippe Auguste organized the great market place of the Halles, in Paris; he completed the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, he built the royal residence of the Louvre, he ordered the streets of Paris to be paved, he united the various colleges of Paris into a University, which was attended by young men from all parts of the world, attracted by the opportunities of learning which it afforded. With Richard the Lion Hearted, King of England, Philippe Auguste also went on a crusade to Jerusalem.

LOUIS IX, THE SAINT

The greatest of all the Capetian Kings however was Louis IX. He embodied the spirit of the times and was its finest expression. His life was lead with the constant thought for the welfare and happiness of his people, with respect and tenderness for his mother, with a devout belief in God. He has been canonized as one of the Saints of the Catholic Church.

Bust of the King Saint Louis.

Louis IX was born in 1226. He came to the throne when he was eleven years old, at the death of his father, who had reconquered from the English several more of the French provinces.

The government of the kingdom was entrusted momentarily to the Queen Mother, Blanche of Castille. Between this mother and this son there existed a beautiful friendship. During his boyhood and youth, at this time when France was enduring days of cruel warfare, the constant companionship of such a remarkable woman, made upon the character of Louis IX a lasting mark. Though his moral sense was as delicate, his human pity as tender as those of the mother who had brought him up, he was not lacking in energy.

The mother of Saint Louis, Blanche of Castille.

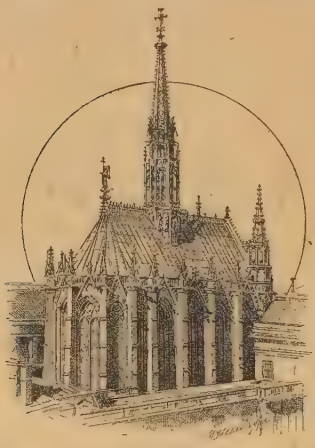
During his minority, the English, who considered this occasion favorable, had attacked the throne of France. In 1242, Louis IX took up arms against these enemies and defeated Henry III of England. The same year he went on a crusade to the Holy Land, where he was made a prisoner by the Turks.

Saint Louis dispensing justice at Vincennes, near Paris.

Louis IX seems to have sought to make himself rather loved than feared and no one, it is said, ever saw him show anger.

During his absence on this first pilgrimage, the shepherds and peasants revolted : bands of them went about pillaging in all parts of France. Blanche of Castille was able to quiet this violent outburst of popular discontent. When Louis IX returned, he endeavored to bring to an end the constant wars which so depleted the country and dissatisfied the people. Thus he drew the nobles about him and confided to

them great responsibilities at his own court. He founded a number of hospitals where the sick and old could be cared for. Among them the most important was the Hôpital des Quinze-Vingts for the blind, in Paris, in which Louis IX gave hospitality to those who in the middle ages had lost their eyesight. To-day the very same building shelters those who in the present war have entered into eternal darkness.



The Sainte Chapelle erected by Louis IX in Paris.

Finally, in 1270, the King set out again for the Holy Land, but he fell ill of the pest in Tunis, where he died with a fortitude and resignation which inspired admiration even from his enemies.

The early years of the 14th century saw renewed fighting in the same region near the Lys and the Yser where the Allies have been at war since 1914.

The seal of Saint Louis.

The quarrel was over the province of Guyenne, which had been annexed to the throne. The Flemish joined with the English against the Kings of France in a war which lasted for six years.

THE STATES GENERAL

During the reign of the grandson of Louis IX, Philippe IV, surnamed *le Bel* or the Beautiful, another important modification was brought about in governmental administration, and in the spirit of religious independance.

All Christian countries, in those days before the Reformation, or Protestantism, were divided into two religious governments : those of the East, who were known as the Orthodox, and whose spiritual director was the Patriarch of Jerusalem, those of the West, who were Catholics, and whose chief was the Pope in Rome. France, Italy and England belonged to the latter countries ; Russia, Serbia, Greece, etc., belonged to the former.

The clergy in France had not been obliged to pay taxes until the days of Philippe IV, who decreed that priests and curates were to be treated in this respect like the laymen of his kingdom.

The Pope, Boniface VIII, violently disapproving this new measure, ordered the French King to be excommunicated. The moment was critical, and it was to mark, once again, the spirit of independence innate to the French.

Hitherto, the sovereign had been alone to make all decisions concerning the administration of his country. Philippe IV now declared that the Pope had no right to interfere in this administration. Very shrewdly, however, he realized that he could not stand alone against the Pope, that he must be sustained by his people. So he did what no King had ever done before him in France. He constituted a regular assembly composed not only of the nobles, and of the

clergy, but also of the *bourgeois*, or commercial class. He called together members of these three groups in a congress thereafter known as the States General (Etats Généraux). The newly appointed body of representative men upheld their King on this occasion.

Strangely enough it was this same States General which, during the Revolution of 1789-93, was to vote the downfall of Louis XVI.

Philippe le Bel was the last of the Capetians whose reign left a mark on the history of France. His sons died without leaving a direct heir .

THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR

The dispute which arose over this succession to the throne gave rise to a war with England which lasted from 1337 to 1453, and was known as the Hundred Years War.

Two heirs claimed the right to reign in France : Philippe of Valois and Edward III of England ; they were cousins of each other and of the last King of France.

It was arranged that the succession should pass into the hands of Valois. This decision the King of England would not accept. He invaded France with an admirable body of soldiers and opened hostilities which were to last for a century.

The situation in those days was quite the opposite to that in which France and England found themselves at the beginning of the present war : as early as the 13th century and even before, the Kings of England had formed regiments of infantry, in which service was compulsory and the training severe. The French, on the contrary, had reserved the profession of arms

Gentleman time of Louis XII | Lady 1510 | About 1528 | Gentleman 1579 | Bourgeois time of Charles IX | Henri III | Reign of Henri IV

for the nobility; the soldiers formed part of the household of the feudal lords. Thus, in 1346, Edward III advanced through Normandy, ravaging the country as he passed, and arrived almost at the gates of Paris. Driven back across the Somme, near Abbeville, the English army won a great victory at Crécy. The Battle of Crécy was a triumph of the infantry, and for the first time, several pieces of cannon were also used.

Calais was the next town to fall into the hands of the English, who kept it for over a hundred years. The siege of Calais lasted for more than a year. The defence made by the inhabitants was so heroic that Edward III wished to kill them all. Six of the most important bourgeois, rich merchants of the city, offered themselves as hostages if the King would spare their fellow towns-people. As they stood before the sovereign, bareheaded, a rope around their necks, offering the keys of Calais to Edward III, who was about to have them beheaded, their spirit of sacrifice touched the Queen. She interceded and obtained grace for them. The Bourgeois of Calais have remained celebrated in French history.

This was not the end of the French defeats. In 1356 the English obtained another great victory at

Poitiers. The Prince of Wales, surnamed the Black Prince, seized the King of France and took him a captive to London, where, in 1364, he died in his prison cell. Not however before he had signed a treaty in which he abandoned to the English about one third of his kingdom. The people of Paris revolted at this shameful treachery, but without an army powerful enough to organize their resistance, this opposition only added to the general misery in France. The King of England, on receipt of a large ransom, renounced his pretentions to the throne of France, but he retained the provinces of Aquitaine, Poitou, Aunis, Saintonge and the city of Calais.

A period of disturbance followed: there were uprisings of the peasants against the nobles, violent quarrels between the nobles and the King. France moreover was overrun by bands of mercenaries who, when peace was signed, found themselves unemployed. They pillaged and burned without scruple the property of others.

All this suffering and distress were to be relieved not by the King, but by one of his captains, Du Guesclin, famous in French history as a great hero of the middle ages. He was said in his childhood to be the ugliest boy in Brittany; snub-nosed, awkward, ill-tempered, he was moreover not particularly intelligent, as his tutors never succeeded in teaching him to read. Nothing indicated in the young Du Guesclin a hero who was to render incomparable services to his country.

He had a habit of running away from home to play war in the neighboring villages where he organized the children into hostile bands. As soon as he was old enough to take up arms in reality he went into the service of the Counts of France against the English.

The King at this time had but one hope : to drive the English out of France. He found in Du Guesclin the Hercules he needed to execute his fondest wishes.

In 1378 he obtained such a decisive victory over the English that their possessions in France were reduced to the five cities : Calais, Cherbourg, Brest, Bordeaux and Bayonne. Du Guesclin was amazingly courageous, a veritable hero. He was full of ingenuity, violent with his enemies, merciful to the poor and the weak, fearless at all times. He is one of the most sympathetic characters of the middle ages. The King made him Commander-in-Chief of all his armies and when in 1380 he died he was laid beside the Kings of France in the Chapel of Saint-Denis, near Paris.

Du Guesclin.

New misfortunes however were to befall France. The kingdom having passed into the hands of a poor mad man, Charles VI, the defence of the country became completely disorganized.

In 1415 the English landed again with considerable forces in France, where they won a great victory at Azincourt. The Queen, a Bavarian by birth, was persuaded by the English to use her influence with the mad King. She urged him to sign a disastrous treaty : the King of England was proclaimed the successor of Charles VI to the throne of France.

The wars to which this treacherous agreement lead, were to call forth the genius of the greatest of French heroines : Jeanne d'Arc.

III. — JEANNE D'ARC

Indeed, Charles VII, the rightful heir to the throne, was excluded, by the treaty of Troyes, from his heritage.

A civil war ensued. The Burgundians and the English lead the hostile opposition to the King of France. Several important cities, however, remained loyal to him.

It was at this moment that France once again, as in the days of the first Battle of the Marne, was to be saved by a peasant girl : Jeanne d'Arc.

Jeanne d'Arc was born on January 16, 1412, at Domrémy, a small village which lies between Neufchâteau and Vaucouleurs, on the border line of the two old provinces : Champagne and Lorraine. She was the child of honorable but poor farmers. According to her neighbors « she was simple, good, kind, and never idle ». She helped her mother to sew and spin, she took the sheep to pasture ; sometimes she was allowed by her father to take charge of the herd of cattle which the people of the village of Domrémy owned in common.

Jeanne, or Jeannette (little Jeanne), as her friends called her at Domrémy, used to go often with her playmates to the « fountain of the currants ». There they used to sing and eat cakes under an old beech which was known as the « tree of the fairies ».

Jeanne did not care for dancing ; on the contrary, she was so devout that her comrades teased her sometimes, calling her too pious. She went to church often and to communion, and she loved the sound

of the bells as they rang the hours for service, or for the angelus.

The little towns of Domrémy and Vaucouleurs had remained faithful to the King of France. So they were exposed to the constant attacks made by the bands

Jeanne d'Arc tending her sheep. The house, in the village of Domrémy where she was born, exists to day.

of English and Burgundians, who went about devastating the provinces which resisted them.

Thus when Jeanne was only nine years old, she saw the young men of the parish of Domrémy return to their homes wounded and bleeding after their encounters with the King's enemies. She saw the neighboring regions pillaged by these hostile invaders and she was distressed and tormented and could not understand how God could allow such disaster to befall her beloved France.

One day, when she was about thirteen, she was working in her father's garden when she heard a voice speaking to her. It seemed to come from the direction of the church, and, at the same time, she saw a great light. She was afraid at first, but, as she express-

ed it, « the voice seemed worthy ». So she took heart, and when she was called a second time she realized that these were the voices of angels speaking to her. Indeed she saw the angels as clearly, she said later, as she saw the judges who were to condemn her to death at Rouen. They spoke to her of the sad state of affairs in the Kingdom of France and they exhorted her to go to the rescue of the Dauphin, Charles VII. She would have preferred to follow the angels. Indeed she said that, when they left her, « she could have cried because they did not take her with them ».

From that moment the visions became more and more frequent. The voices supplicated her to save the kingdom of France. Oppressed by the strange mystery of these repeated appeals which she did not understand, she finally confided all to her father, who was a most sceptical and unsympathetic listener. He flew into a rage and threatened to punish Jeanne severely if she should even contemplate such a thing as trying to save the kingdom of France. In fact he appealed to Jeanne's brothers saying : « If I thought that Jeanne was going to leave here with such an idea in her head, I would beg you to drown her, and if you refused I would drown her myself. »

Jeanne had been brought up to respect and obey her parents. She did not suppose that the heavenly voices could ask her to displease her father. And yet she could think of nothing else but this divine message to save France.

When the vision took the form of Saint-Michel and when this Saint exhorted her to set out without delay, she responded : « Sir, I am only a poor girl. I would not know how to ride a horse, or to lead a company of men ! » « God will show you the way », the archangel responded.

Meanwhile, her father, with a very human interest in the welfare of his child, and the natural desire that she should be like other girls, planned a marriage for her. He appealed to one of Jeanne's suitors to declare that she had promised to become his bride. This Jeanne stoutly denied, and, when at last the matter was brought before the elders of the church, everyone believed and respected Jeanne.

Yet all this did not simplify matters for the poor young peasant girl whose inspirations so far surpassed the understanding of those nearest her in kin. Finally she imagined a device which could give her momentary encouragement and freedom.

One of her aunts who lived in a neighboring village had fallen ill. Jeanne asked permission to go and care for her. The extraordinary conviction with which she talked to this aunt and to her uncle of her mission, convinced them that she must be assisted.

It was quite natural in those days that the poor peasants who wanted to accomplish anything should turn first to their lords and masters. So Jeanne, after long conversations with her uncle, in which she repeated to him the prophecy that « a woman should lose France, and that a young girl should save the country », finally persuaded him to go with her to see the Sire Robert de Baudricourt, one of the lords of the region of Vaucouleurs.

When Jeanne was in the presence of the Sire of Baudricourt, she said to him :

« I am sent by our Lord. You are to tell the Dauphin that he is not to give in to his enemies, he must hold out a little longer. The Lord will send him help. »

« What Lord? » asked the Sire of Baudricourt.

« The Lord of Heaven », answered Jeanne d'Arc.

Baudricourt greeted this response in a brutal manner. Jeanne insisted. She declared :

« I have been sent by God in order that I myself may lead the Dauphin to be crowned. »

« This girl is mad », said Baudricourt, and he advised her uncle to take her back to her parents. He even added that her ears should be boxed!

Jeanne, in all humility, returned to Domrémy, but the voices continued to call her, to call her upon the greatest mission that ever a woman was born to undertake.

In 1428 the news was bad ; the Burgundians once again had invaded Domrémy, and shortly afterward word came that the English were besieging Orléans.

Jeanne set out again for Vaucouleurs. She visited the Sire of Baudricourt and she said to him :

« This time I am going, even though I should walk my legs off up to the knees ! »

Complete independance had come to the spirit of Jeanne, nothing could hold her back.

« If I had a hundred fathers and a hundred mothers », she declared, « or if I were the daughter of a King, I would go ! »

Baudricourt, while he was not convinced, was impressed. He allowed Jeanne to remain at Vaucouleurs and he spoke of her to his friends, seeking their opinion. He talked with the Duke of Lorraine and other noblemen of this extraordinary case.

Jeanne remained at Vaucouleurs, in the house of a poor woman, whom she helped to spin and sew as she had helped her own mother, going often to church and waiting to know what would be her fate. Her ardent conviction and her peculiarly strong and noble personality were to win for her unknown friends. A certain nobleman — Jean de Metz — attached to

the household of the Sire of Baudricourt, came to visit Jeanne at Vaucouleurs. He questioned her as to her purpose and was so much impressed by her answers, that he took her hands in his and declared :

« By Heaven, I shall lead you to the King ! When do you wish to leave? »

« Better now than to-morrow », Jeanne replied, « Better to-morrow than later. »

Vaucouleurs rang with this incident, and shortly another nobleman offered to accompany Jeanne to the King. Her reputation spread far and wide.

Finally the Duke of Lorraine became so interested in all the reports about Jeanne that he asked to see her. He was old and ill and wished to consult her about his failing health. She replied to this great Lord that she could not heal him, but that she urged him to return to his wife whom he had abandoned. He gave her a certain sum of money and she went back to Vaucouleurs greatly encouraged.

Jean de Metz, who was to accompany her on her mission, was not the only one to be inspired by her great faith. Indeed all the poor people in the country round about brought her gifts so that she might be properly fitted out for her undertaking. Jean de Metz asked her if she intended travelling in her peasant's skirts.

« I am quite willing », Jeanne answered, « to dress as a man. »

So a collection was taken up in order to buy her an appropriate costume ; they gave her a horse, a sword, and the complete equipment of a soldier.

Thus, on the 25th of January, 1429, accompanied by a royal messenger and a bowsman, Jeanne set out upon her mission, the mission which has made her glorious throughout the history of the world.

« Go ! » cried the Sire of Baudricourt, « and Heaven knows what may become of you ! »

« God keep you ! » cried the people, and the women wept until she was out of sight.

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Chinon was a long way off, and the journey thither was very dangerous. The English and the Burgundians were masters of the country in some of the regions where Jeanne and her little escort were forced to travel by night and to hide themselves by day. Her companions, alarmed, were inclined to return to Vaucouleurs.

« Fear not », she said to them, « God will show me the way. My brothers in Paradise will tell me what to do. »

Jeanne and her companions had a journey of about 275 miles to cover before reaching the Castle of Chinon in the Touraine, where Charles VII held his much disputed court. It took them eleven days to travel over this distance, but Jeanne exhorted her brothers in arms to fear nothing.

« God is leading me », she declared. « It was for this that I was born. »

Finally, having reached the village of Sainte-Catherine-de-Fierbois, near Chinon, Jeanne went three times to communion in the village church, and she wrote to the King the same day, announcing her arrival and begging him to receive her. She explained to him that she had come a long way in order to tell him things of the greatest interest.

Charles VII and his courtiers were not convinced. They could scarcely believe that a peasant girl of Lorraine could bring the King assistance greater than

that given by his own followers. The courtiers who were in especial favor, and who feared any new influence, opposed the reception of Jeanne d'Arc by their King; those of a more generous disposition urged the sovereign to receive this young girl. The Sire of Baudricourt had deemed her worthy of interest, and, moreover, as soon as she appeared, it would be easy to judge of her merits, so why not give her an audience?

Two women, it is curious to note, plead in favor of Jeanne d'Arc: one was the Queen of Sicily, mother-in-law to the King of France, the other was her daughter, the young Queen, Marie of Anjou. They insisted that Jeanne d'Arc be received at court.

On March 6, 1429, she arrived, with her companions at Chinon, where she was allowed to remain for several days, while the King still deliberated as to whether or not he should see her.

The news from Orléans was bad. The King had neither troops nor money at his disposal. If Orléans fell into the hands of the enemy he would be obliged to seek refuge in Spain or in Scotland. The promise of Jeanne was that she would deliver Orléans. The partisans of Jeanne at the court begged earnestly that this chance of salvation should not be thrown away.

Finally, toward evening, when the nobles of the court were all gathered together in the great hall of Chinon, where fifty torches were lighted, Jeanne was introduced.

In order not to attract the attention of this young shepherdess who had never seen the King, Charles VII had dressed himself in clothes more simple than those of his courtiers, and he held himself somewhat apart from them. Jeanne however recognized him

by inspiration. Going straight to him, she kneeled down and said :

« May God bless you, dear Dauphin ! » (Jeanne called him Dauphin, or prince, believing that until

At the Castle of Chinon, near Tours, Jeanne d'Arc recognizes Charles VII though she has never seen him before.

he had been crowned at Rheims, he should not be addressed as « King ».)

« I am not the King », Charles VII answered her, « This is he », and he showed one of his nobles.

« You are he and no other ! » Jeanne declared. « The King of Heaven bids me tell you that you shall be anointed and crowned. »

She begged him to give her troops so that she could raise the siege of Orléans, and drive the English out of the country.

Charles VII was impressed, but still he hesitated. He saw Jeanne several times and she understood the doubts which were troubling him.

« Gentle Dauphin », she said, « why don't you believe in me? I tell you that God has pity on you and on your kingdom and your people. Saint Louis and

Charlemagne are on their knees praying for you... You must believe. »

Charles VII, his contemporaries say, was a beautiful prince and he knew how to speak graciously with everyone. He was merciful toward the poor and he armed himself reluctantly and did not care about war. His hope was that war might be avoided. He was not a politician, nor was he a chivalrous soul. He was a rather weak, and hesitating character, who was easily influenced by his courtiers, and who tried to avoid rather than to assume responsibilities.

Thus, he could not decide the matter of what to do about Jeanne d'Arc ; he preferred to have her questioned by the priests and doctors at Poitiers, where Parliament was sitting.

So Jeanne took up her abode with one of the honorable families of Poitiers, resigned to her fate, sure that God would guide her and aid her to the end.

The Archbishop of Rheims, the Chancellor of France, the councillors of the King and many other important people were assembled to interrogate Jeanne. For three long weeks they questioned her ; they tormented her with all sorts of sly remarks.

« There is more in the book of God than in your books », she answered them. « I don't know my alphabet, but I have been sent by our Heavenly Father. »

Her interlocutors responded that God did not need an armed force in order to deliver France. Thereupon she rose up with indignation and cried out :

« Those who are armed shall fight and God will give them the Victory ! »

Then she begged that they let her go to Orléans.

« I have not come to discuss at Poitiers », she explained. « Let me have a handful of men and I

shall go to Orléans and give proof of the reason why I was sent. »

She dictated an appeal to the English, in which she exhorted them to leave France.

« If they do not obey », she wrote, « I shall drive them out of France whether they will or no. Duke of Bedford », she concluded, exhorting the English chief, « if you do not yield, you who pretend to be the Regent of France, I, a mere girl, shall accomplish the most splendid act which has been seen in Christian times ! »

In Poitiers, as at Vaucouleurs, the people were fired with enthusiasm. They looked upon Jeanne as an inspired saint. The doctors and the wise men of the church were obliged to give way before the acclamations of the crowd. Jeanne d'Arc had already won popular confidence, as she seemed to embody the hopes of the people regarding France.

Charles VII could no longer hesitate.

He gave orders that this remarkable young girl should be treated as a « war chief ». She was given an equerry, a page, two heralds, a chaplain, beside valets and servants in number. She was fitted out with a complete suit of armor. The King himself wished to present her with a sword. She asked for one that she had seen in the chapel of Sainte-Catherine-de-Fierbois and she requested also that a standard be given her of white cloth, strewn with *fleur de lys* and bearing the image of God seated among the clouds holding the world in his hand. The words « Jesus, Marie », were embroidered on this banner.

Thus equipped and more than ever anxious to be off for the battlefield, Jeanne and her little company set out on Thursday, April 28, 1429. She led the way, her banner flying in the wind, singing the *Veni Crea-*

The triumphant entry of Jeanne d'Arc
into the city of Orléans.

tor. She wanted to march straight to Orléans. The chiefs thought it more prudent to take the left bank of the Loire.

At Chécy, about seven miles from Orléans it was necessary to cross the river, but no boats were to be found. Jeanne continued with a part of her escort ; the remainder of her troops were obliged to return to Blois, and to procede from there to Orléans by way of Beauce.

This breaking up of her group sorely tried Jeanne's soul. She confided her banner to those who were to follow her later, and proceeded under escort of a small body of two hundred men, with provisions and arms, to Orléans.

To the officer who came out to meet her on her way she declared :

« I am bringing you the best possible help, the help of the Heavenly Father ; it does not come from me, but from God Himself, who, answering the prayers of Saint Louis and of Charlemagne, has taken pity on the City of Orléans. »

At eight o'clock in the evening Jeanne entered Orléans. The people threw themselves before her. By torch light she traversed the town, passing through a crowd so dense that she could scarcely make her way. Men, women and children pressed forward; they wanted do get near her, to touch her horse, if nothing else ; they showed as much joy as though « God had appeared among them ».

The feeling of relief was general. The masses who had seen Jeanne were comforted, so say the ancient records and they seemed to have been delivered by the divine virtue of this simple peasant girl. Jeanne talked with them gently, she promised to save them.

She asked to be led to the church, wanting, first of all, to give thanks to God.

As one of the old men of the town said to Jeanne, referring to the English :

« Daughter, they are strong, and well fortified. It would be a great thing if we could drive them out. »

Jeanne answered : « With God nothing is impossible. »

Thus her confidence won the trust of all with whom she came in contact. The inhabitants of Orléans, who, the day before, had been panic stricken, wanted now to throw themselves on the enemy and seize all the fortresses. Dunois, the chief officer, fearing a defeat, decided that, before beginning an attack, they must wait for the reinforcements whom they had left behind at the crossing of the Loire. Jeanne meanwhile commanded the English to withdraw and to return to their own country. They answered her sneeringly.

Time went on and no news came from the troops at Blois. Dunois finally set out to expedite matters. It was none too soon. The archbishop of Rheims, having reconsidered his first decision, was about to send the troops back to their garrison. Dunois was soon leading them on the way to Orléans. In anticipation of their arrival, Jeanne left Orléans, on May 4. Surrounded by the clergy of the town, and followed by the greater part of the population, she proceeded, advancing to meet Dunois' army. She passed the English fortifications, going and coming, without the enemy daring to attack the army which had placed itself under the protection of the priests and of a young girl.

That same day, as Jeanne was resting, she roused herself with a start and cried out :

« Oh, God ! The blood of our soldiers is being shed

upon the ground. This should not be ! Why did they not call me? Quickly, my arms and my horse ! »

Aided by the women of the household, she armed herself rapidly, and springing into the saddle she set out at a gallop, her standard in her hand, riding directly toward the gate of Burgundy. She sped on so quickly that the sparks flew from the pavement under her horses hoofs.

It was quite true that, without any warning, the fortress of Saint Loup had been attacked. This manœuvre had met with failure and the French were withdrawing in disorder. Jeanne rallied them, lead them back to face the enemy, and started a fresh offensive. Talbot tried in vain to reach the English and help them. Jeanne, standing at the foot of the ramparts, exhorted her men. The English held out for three hours. In spite of their desperate defence, the fortress fell. The English had lost.

Victorious, Jeanne entered Orléans. But, as she was returning toward the city, her heart overflowing with joy, she felt suddenly overwhelmed as she caught sight of the dead and wounded. She began to weep, thinking « that they had died without being able to confess their sins ». She said that she had « never seen the blood of France flow without her hair standing on end. »

It was urgent to decide now how the offensive against the English was to be carried on to success.

The Chiefs, who did not care much to be lead by a simple farmer's daughter, or to share with her the glories of victory, got together in secret to discuss the best plan to follow.

Jeanne presented herself at this council, and, as the Chancellor of the Duke of Orléans sought to conceal from her the decisions which had been arrived at :

« Tell me », she cried, indignant, « what it is that you have decided to do. I can keep greater secrets than this ! »

Then she added :

« You have held your council, and I have held mine. Rest assured that the wisdom of God will triumph and yours will perish. You must get up early to-morrow morning, for I shall have much to do, more than I have ever had in my life. »

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The next day, the 6th of May, she seized the fortress of the Augustins. Saturday, the 7th, at daybreak, the attack was begun on the fortress of Tournelles. Jeanne had gone down into the trenches, and had placed a ladder against the enemy's parapets. At this moment a crossbow sent its arrow through her shoulder. She pulled the steel from her arm and when they asked her if she wanted some one to « charm» the wound she refused.

« I would rather die » she said, « than do what might be contrary to the will of God. »

She prayed for a long time while the troops were resting. Then giving orders for a fresh assault, she threw herself into the midst of the combat calling out to the soldiers :

« All is yours ! Forward ! »

The fortress was taken, and all those who were defending it perished. There was only one Englishman left alive on the left bank of the Loire.

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The following Sunday, the English drew up in battle line on the right bank of the Loire. Jeanne

forbade an attack being made. She set up an altar and mass was celebrated in the presence of the entire army. When the ceremony was over she said to those who surrounded her :

« See whether the English have their faces or their backs turned toward us. »

As she was told that the English were retiring in the direction of Meung, she said :

« In the name of God, if they are withdrawing, let them go ; it does not please the Lord that we should fight them to-day : you will get them another time. »

Orléans, which had been besieged for eight months, was delivered in four days.

The news of its rescue spread far and wide, proving to all the divinity of Jeanne's mission.

With a saintly sort of modesty she wished to avoid the expressions of gratitude of the inhabitants of Orléans. She returned with all speed to Chinon.

Profiting by the general enthusiasm which she had aroused, she desired now to leave at once for Rheims, and to induce the King to go with her, so that he might be anointed.

The King received her with great honors, but he refused to follow her.

It was decided that Jeanne should attack the other strongholds which the English still occupied on the banks of the Loire.

On June 11, the French had advanced as far as the outskirts of Jargeau. The following day, at dawn, Jeanne gave the signal for combat. The Duke of Alençon wanted to postpone the attack :

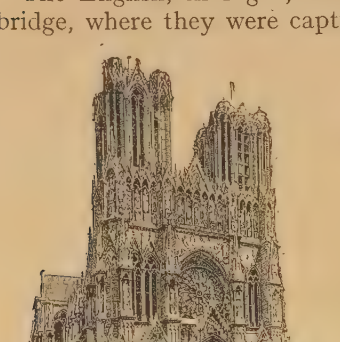
« Forward, kind Duke », Jeanne said to him. « Have no doubts this is God's hour. Work, and God will work. »

She climbed up on the parapet, but she was overcome

by a stone which struck her on the head. She sprang up however, calling out to her people :

« Friends, forward, be upon them ! God is against the English ; they are ours now. Courage ! »

The English, in flight, were pursued to the town bridge, where they were captured or killed. Suffolk was taken prisoner. On June 15, the French were masters of the bridge of Meung; the 16th they laid siege to Beaugency, the 17th the city capitulated.



The Cathedral of Rheims before the passage of the Huns who, since 1914, have practically destroyed it.

On June 18, Jeanne had overtaken the English army near Patay. Talbot and Falstaff were in command.

« In God's name we must fight them », she said, « if they must be hung as high as the clouds, we shall get them, because God has sent them to us for us to punish them. Our dear King shall to-day have the greatest victory he has seen. »

She wanted to be first in line, but they held her back. La Hire was ordered to attack the English and to make them face about, while the French troops were gaining time to get into position. La Hire's offensive was so violent that he carried everything before him. When Jeanne rode up with her men the English were retreating in disorder. Their retreat became a flight. Talbot was taken prisoner.

« You did not think this morning that such a thing could happen to you », said the Duke of Alençon.

« Such are the fortunes of war », Talbot replied.

The English lost four thousand dead, and two hundred prisoners. Jeanne's heart was as compassionate for the wounded English as for those of her own army. For that matter she faced battle, was often wounded herself, but would not ever use her sword ; her standard was her only arm.

On July 16, the King made his entry into the city of Rheims at the head of his troops. The following day the ceremony of the coronation was held, in the midst of a great crowd of nobles and people, in the very cathedral which the Germans have bombarded and endeavored to destroy since the beginning of the present war. Jeanne stood behind the King, her standard in her hand.

« This standard », she said, « has suffered often. It has been present at many sad scenes, it is just that it should share in the honors. »

When Charles VII had received from the Archbishop Regnault de Chartres the sacred ointment and the crown, Jeanne threw herself at his feet, kissed his knees and with the tears pouring from her eyes she said :

« Oh, gentle Sire, the good will of God has been accomplished. He wanted me to bring you to Rheims to be anointed, to show that you are the true King and that the kingdom of France belongs to you ! »

The old chronicles say : « All who saw her at that moment more than ever believed that she was one who had been sent by God. »

« Oh, the good and devout people », cried Jeanne as she saw the enthusiasm of the crowd around the King. « If I were to die I would be happy to be buried here ! »

Nothing could have been more touching than the eagerness of the people as they crowded around Jeanne. They vied with each other to kiss her hands, her clothes. They brought her little children to bless, and rosaries, and sacred pictures, so that she might sanctify them by the mere touch of her fingers. And she, with great humility, discouraged these expressions of adoration; she smiled and made light of the belief which these poor people showed in her power. She asked them on what days and at what hours their children went to communion, so that she could go with them. Her compassion was with all who suffered, and her tenderness went out to the children and to the poor. She felt as though she were their sister, as though she had been born among them.

Later, when she was accused of having encouraged this adoration of the people, she answered simply :

« Many people were anxious to see me, but I kept them as best I could from kissing my hands. The poor came to me naturally because I did not offend them. »

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After the coronation at Rheims, Jeanne wanted to set out at once for Paris and take the capital of the kingdom. The King was uncertain, and his hesitation gave the English time to prepare their defence. Their first attack was repulsed ; Jeanne was wounded by a lance which pierced her thigh. They had to carry her by force from the ramparts in order to make her desist from fighting.

The following day the King insisted that the attack should not be resumed.

The King was not so brave as Jeanne, and this enforced surrender was overwhelming for her. From

that moment she ceased to appear invincible in the eyes of all. And it seemed as though she felt this waning of her forces.

Before leaving the neighborhood of Paris, she made an offering on the altar of the cathedral at Saint-Denis.

Jeanne d'Arc is taken prisoner by the English at Compiègne.

She placed her arms upon the altar, those arms which until then had known only victory. She prayed for a long time. Perhaps she had the presentiment that her glorious mission was ended, and that great trials were in store for her. Yet she made no protestation, and, with her heart as heavy as death, she followed the King to Gien. The army was disbanded. The people at court felt that there had been enough of wars. They were moreover jealous of Jeanne and thought it time her successes should cease.

Jeanne could not accept this rôle of idleness they wished to impose upon her. Abandoned and without aid, during the siege of La Charité, she realized that she could expect no help from Charles VII.

Finally, toward the end of March 1430, without taking leave of the King, she set out to rejoin at Lagny

the French troops who were having daily skirmishes with the English.

During Easter week, as she had just been to mass and to communion at the church of Saint Jacques, in Compiègne, she began to weep, hiding herself behind one of the columns of the church.

The people of the town and the children gathered about her and she said to them :

« Friends and children, I must tell you that I have been sold and betrayed, and that soon I shall be delivered up to my death. I beg you to pray for me, for never again shall I have the power to serve the King and the kingdom of France. »

On May 23, finding herself at Crespy, she learned that the Burgundians were closing down upon the city of Compiègne. She hastened thither with four hundred combatants and entered the town on the 24th, at dawn. Then, taking part of the garrison with her, she attacked the Burgundians. But the English came to fight her, and they forced the French to withdraw.

« Think only of forging ahead, of riding into them », she cried. « It is in your hands not to be overcome. »

But she was obliged to fall back in the general retreat. Brought to the ramparts of Compiègne again, the French found the draw-bridge lifted and the portcullis closed. Jeanne, driven into the ditches, continued an heroic defence. A whole company threw themselves upon her.

« Give yourself up ! » they cried.

« I have pledged my faith to another than you », she answered, « and I shall keep my promise to Him ! »

But resistance was vain. Dragged from her horse, she was made captive and though the governor of

Jeanne d'Arc. This statue, by Frémiet, stands on the Place des Pyramides, Paris.

Compiègne saw them take her prisoner, he did nothing to help her.

Jeanne was lead to Margny, amidst the shouts of joy of her enemies. The English and Burgundian leaders, the Duke of Burgundy himself, hastened to see this « sorceress ». They found themselves face to face with a girl of eighteen years old.

Jeanne was the prisoner of Jean de Luxembourg, a gentleman without fortune, who did not scorn making something out of his prize. Ten thousand francs was the price paid for Jeanne d'Arc by the English. Nor did Charles VII propose to ransom this captive who had made him King of France. It almost seemed as though those who owed Jeanne the most were now seized with a superstitious terror which made them afraid to show her even common loyalty.

She was imprisoned by Jean de Luxembourg first in one castle then in another, and though she was always under close watch, she tried twice to escape. The second time, in October 1430, she jumped from the top of the dungeon in which they had locked her. The cords,which she had fastened about her waist, broke with the weight of her body and she fell, bruised and bleeding, at the foot of the wall where she lay as though dead. She was however to recover from these wounds : a more cruel fate awaited her.

Her youth, her courage, and her wonderful character were to win her friends even in her prison cell. Both the wife and the aunt of Jean de Luxembourg showed an affectionate interest in Jeanne d'Arc, and tried to make her captivity less cruel. These two women were more conventional than their illustrious protégée. They objected strongly that Jeanne should wear men's clothes. They even went so far as to offer dresses of their own or material to make her

some more feminine garb, but she replied courteously that she had not yet been released by the Saviour, and that it was too soon to think of such things.

When the English questioned Jean de Luxembourg in the hope of buying his prisoner from him, his aunt besought him not to dishonor the family name by such disgraceful traffic. But Jean de Luxembourg was unscrupulous. He took advantage of a clause in the law which provided that the English had the right to purchase any war prisoner, be he King, dauphin, or prince, for the sum of ten thousand francs to be alloted to the captor.

The hesitations of Jean de Luxembourg were brought suddenly to an end by the death of the aunt who momentarily had stirred his conscience.

On November 13, the King of England, informed, deposited in the right hands, the value of ten thousand francs in English gold. Just one week later, Jean de Luxembourg had overcome his last scruples and, on November 21, 1430, Jeanne d'Arc became the possession of the King of England. On the same day the rectors of the University of Paris, begged this sovereign, whom they recognised as the King of France, to have Jeanne d'Arc prosecuted by the Church.

Jeanne was taken, not to Paris, but to Rouen, which was then the veritable English capital in France. Here she was cast into prison, awaiting her trial.

Jean de Luxembourg, moved perhaps by an uneasy conscience, visited the prisoner with several of the English Lords, the Earl of Warwick, the Earl of Stafford and others.

« Jeanne », Luxembourg said to her, « I have come to give you money, and to arrange for your ransom. You need only promise that you will never take up arms against us again. »

« In the name of God », Jeanne answered, « You are making fun of me, I suppose? You want to ransom me? You have neither the means nor the power! »

The Count insisted ; and Jeanne replied :

« I know that the English will put me to death. Yet, though there were one hundred thousand more *God-damns* than there are already in France, they shall not have the kingdom! »

The Earl of Stafford, thereupon unsheathed his dagger as though he were about to strike Jeanne, but Warwick stopped him. The visitors left the prison and Jeanne was given over to her judges.

Strangely enough — or rather naturally enough — the Scotchmen who were in France espoused the cause of Jeanne d'Arc. As she was transferred from one prison to another, at Arras a Scotchman showed her a portrait of herself which he always carried with him as a symbol of the devotion which her followers felt for her. At Amiens she was given communion by the chancellor of the cathedral. At Abbeville, the noblewomen of the neighborhood walked fifteen miles in order to visit Jeanne ; they praised her for her unfailing faith in Jesus, and they wept in taking leave of her.

Though her destiny was now to be ever increasingly tragic, she was still the idol of those who loved France, and who believed in God.

Her trial lasted from February 21 until May 30th, 1431. Most of the forty sessions were held in the chapel of the Castle of Rouen, some of them in the prison cell, where Jeanne was at first put in an iron cage and afterward simply chained to the wall.

The long and painful inquisition to which Jeanne was submitted by her judges forms one of the most

poignant documents of religious persecution. Not even the menace of torture, when the instruments were placed before her eyes, could force this heroic martyr to confess one word which did not appear to her as absolute truth, nor even to make statements which might in any way compromise those to whom she owed loyalty.

Finally, Jeanne was condemned, by the ecclesiasts who were her judges, to perpetual confinement with a diet of bread and water.

The Church, which considered her a heretic, was satisfied. The King of England and his councillors were not. They were animated by fear of what Jeanne might do if she were living, and by a spirit of vengeance at what she had already accomplished.

As the trial dragged on, the English, finding that it did not proceed rapidly enough, cried out to the members of the Court :

« Judges, you are not earning your pay ! »

To this Jeanne replied :

« I came to the King of France, sent by God, by the Virgin Mary. You say that you are my judges? Beware lest you yourself be in danger. I am sent by God. »

This sacred heroine was at last condemned as an heretic, an idolatress, a renegade. The sentence read that she was to be burned alive on the square of the Vieux Marché at Rouen.

« Bishop », she said, addressing herself to her chief judge, Cauchon, « I die because of you. »

On May 30th, Jeanne confessed her sins and took Holy Communion.

When she had reached the foot of the scaffold, she knelt and invoked God, the Virgin Mary, and the Saints with whom she had so often been in close and

mysterious touch. Then, turning toward the Bishop, toward her judges, her enemies, she begged them reverently to have masses said for her soul.

She mounted serenely the platform upon which she was to be burned, submitted quietly, while her executioners bound her lest she might escape, and lighted the fagots under her feet.

As the flames crept up about her, she died, pronouncing the name of Jesus. Everyone was weeping. One of the secretaries of the English King cried out :

« We are lost ! We have burned a Saint. »

Nor did the English derive any benefit from the martyrdom which they had inflicted upon Jeanne d'Arc. The French, on the contrary, inspired by what she had accomplished, redoubled their attack against the enemy, and succeeded in driving him from France. In 1453, the only city held by the English, at the close of the Hundred Years War, was Calais.

Charles VII organized a strong army for defence and, moreover, with the assistance of Jacques Cœur, his silversmith, or what to-day would be called his banker, he elaborated plans for the lasting encouragement of commerce.

The banner of Jeanne d'Arc.

IV. — MODERN TIMES

LOUIS XI

The son of Charles VII — Louis XI — was to be one of the most terrible and one of the greatest Kings of France.

As soon as he came to the throne, he started to fight the Feudal Lords. The most powerful of them was the Duke of Burgundy, Charles, surnamed the Bold.

Louis XI, with ferocious tenacity, pursued Charles the Bold to his death. The latter was killed near Nancy in 1477 and Louis XI became the possessor of Burgundy. He added also to the kingdom of France the provinces of Maine, Anjou and Provence.

Louis XI,
the democratic despot.

This gradual elimination of the various hostile states within the State was a most important work. It contributed to the suppression of the constant conflict of interests between the nobles and the King, but the methods of Louis XI were ferociously cruel. He was a sort of democratic despot. He affected great simplicity in his dress and in his manner of living. In striking contrast to the Feudal Lords, who clad themselves in gold cloth and velvets, and who surrounded themselves with luxurious splendour, Louis XI wore a short coat, sometimes mended with patches,

and a small, shabby felt hat. He was superstitious and always hung around his neck a collection of medals and relics. His greatest friends were his barber, Olivier Le Daim, and his executioner, Tristan l'Hermite.

History records his character as having been hypocritical, vindictive and wicked. He is supposed to have promised much and given nothing. He lived in his Château at Plessis-lez-Tours, in the Touraine. This habitation, which he preferred to all others, was in the midst of a sombre and lugubrious forest; his only neighbors were the crows who lived in the trees.

Quite without scruples, Louis XI cast his enemies into prison and had them executed, or he shut them up in cages to perish slowly. The dungeons where he tortured his victims are still to be seen at the castle of Loches, in the neighborhood of Tours.

In spite of his personal cruelty, Louis XI made good laws; he was a revolution in himself as he finally destroyed the party of nobles which for so long had been a menace to the throne of France. He died at Plessis-lez-Tours, in 1483.

GREAT INVENTIONS AND DISCOVERIES

During this eventful century (1400-1500) which, broadly speaking, marked the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of modern times, several inventions and discoveries were made, important enough to change the character of civilization.

In 1436, printing was invented by Jean Gutenberg, who was born at Mayence. Before this, all books had been written or printed by hand, and they natur-

ally cost such a great price that only the very rich could afford to own a library. As soon as Gutenberg had invented the printing press, great quantities of books were distributed among the people, who began from that moment to study widely.

Another discovery which changed the nature, not of peaceful pursuits, but of war itself, was that of the adaptation of Chinese gunpowder to fire arms. After the battle of Crécy in 1346, cannon and rifles were used generally.

Finally, the invention of the compass permitted those of a venturesome mind to explore the seas in search of new continents. Christopher Columbus thus set forth upon the Atlantic Ocean on the expedition which, on October 12, 1492, resulted in the discovery of America.

This greater activity upon the high seas had an immediate effect in encouraging the commerce of France.

THE CHEVALIER BAYARD

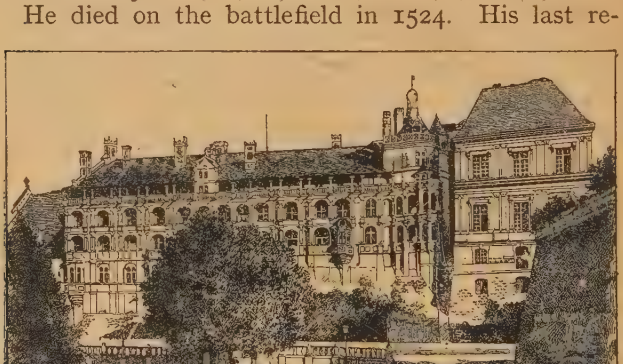
Charles VIII, son of Louis XI, was the last of the Capetian-Valois dynasty. Married to Anne, the Duchess, he united to the throne, by this alliance, the vast province of Brittany.

The great hero of these times was Bayard, surnamed « the Chevalier without fear and without reproach ». He was born near Grenoble in 1477.

When Charles VIII undertook his first campaign in Italy, Bayard, at the age of eighteen, distinguished himself as an incomparable warrior. Two horses were killed under him, but he managed to seize the enemy's standard and carry it triumphant to the

King. Alone, single-handed, on another occasion, he held a bridge over which the enemy was passing. One by one, as the Spanish and Italians advanced, he struck them down, and thus, unaided, he saved the French army.

He died on the battlefield in 1524. His last re-



The Castle of Blois, one of the most remarkable châteaux in France.

quest was that he should be turned about so as to face the enemy, to whom, he declared, he had never shown his back.

Louis XII, the next King (1498-1515), was a cousin of Charles VIII, who died without heirs. He continued the wars against Italy begun by his predecessor, and he married the widow of Charles VIII, thus by this second alliance welding the duchy of Brittany to the throne of France.

He was good and wise and was called « the father of his country ».

THE RENAISSANCE

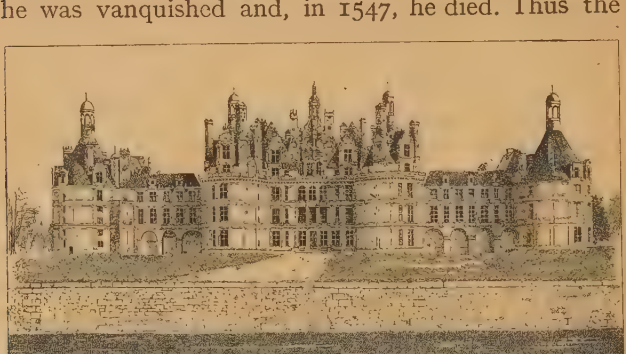
The next century (1500-1600), the century of the Renaissance or rebirth of the arts, was of great importance in the history of civilization, because of its refining effect upon society. Intellectual pursuits were stimulated and religious freedom encouraged.

François I who started the Renaissance of art in France.

The Kings of France who succeeded each other during these hundred years were all of the same family of Valois. They were : François I, his son Henri II, and the sons of Henri II, three of whom, Henri III, François II, Charles IX, were kings like their father and grand father.

The conflict which occupied the military existence of François I, his long struggle against Charles V, King of Austria and of Spain, surnamed Charles-Quint, was in reality a secondary matter. The story of the exploits of François I are varied and brilliant : defeated by his enemy, he was made prisoner and kept in close confinement for a year at Madrid, the capital of Spain. Finally, having signed an igno-

minious treaty, he was given his liberty. No sooner had he set foot in France than he again rallied around him his faithful troops. After a first great victory, he was vanquished and, in 1547, he died. Thus the



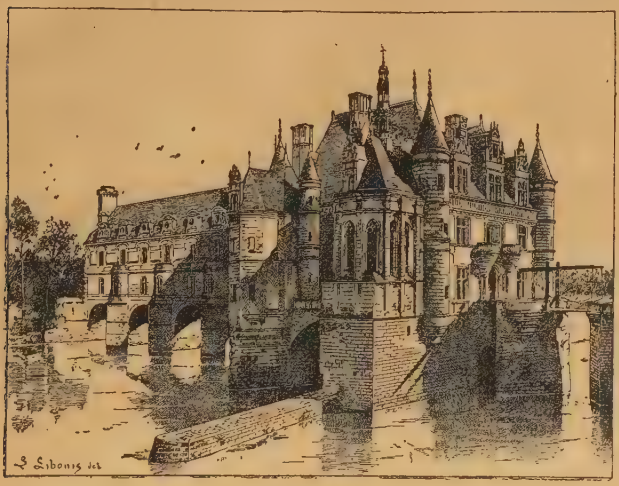
The vast Renaissance Castle of Chambord, as it stands to-day, near Tours. It was built by François I^er.

pages of history, which speak only of the diplomatic and military service rendered by François I to his country, are more or less meagre.

The glory which surrounds his name results from his understanding not of war but of the arts which could embellish the peaceful history of the French.

The inspiration of the Middle Ages had been spiritual. In the turmoil of incessant wars, men had found time to lift up their hearts, to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, to found the Order of Chivalry. After the action and reaction of battle and of prayer, it was only natural that the French, with their perfect equilibrium, should now yearn for intellectual glory.

During the wars which François I fought in Italy, he was amazed at the splendid pictures and architecture with which that country is filled. On his return to France he summoned to his court some of the great



The Castle of Chenonceaux, begun in 1515, partly in gothic, partly in Renaissance style.

Italian painters. They decorated the palace of Fontainebleau with frescoes, which are still in perfect preservation.

This was the beginning of the Renaissance, or the rebirth of art, in France.

The gifted French sculptors of this time were Germain Pilon and Jean Goujon, whose Fontaine des Innocents in Paris, and whose beautiful decorations in the Palace of the Louvre are unsurpassed masterpieces.

With the same love of literature as of art, François I

founded the Collège de France, which, with the Sorbonne, to-day remains one of the greatest universities in the world.

The celebrated writers of the Renaissance in France were Rabelais, who satyrised the human side of life; Montaigne, who analysed with delicacy the moral phases of existence; Ronsard, the most tender poet who ever sung of love and war, and Calvin, the first great French Protestant. When Luther had made the break, known as the Reformation, between Catholics and Reformists, Calvin became the leader of the Protestant party.

The influence of François I was from every point of view humanizing, civilizing. The long wars against the nobles had come to an end in the days of Louis XI. The King became the centre of the Government, and his Court was the place around which, subservient to their Master, the warring lords of old then rallied.

The Court of France was at this time the most powerful and the most important of Europe. The castles, which for centuries had been fortresses where the nobles defended themselves, became the pleasant habitations of a more peaceloving society.

François I, because of his interest in the arts, was surnamed « the father of letters ». His son, Henri II, continued the wars already begun against Charles-Quint.

As in the present war, the menace for France came from the east. Charles-Quint laid siege to the three strongholds on the eastern frontier: Metz, Toul and Verdun. His failure to occupy them rapidly in 1553 was similar to that of the Kronprinz before Verdun in 1916.

In 1558, the English also were driven from Calais, which they had held for more than two hundred years. Peace was signed with Italy the following year.

THE MASSACRE OF SAINT-BARTHELEMY

Henri II had married an Italian, Catherine de Médicis. Her three sons were to reign as Kings of France, at a time when the country was divided in its religious opinions. Calvin, the great French Protestant, had begun to preach the new belief to the people of France. Catherine de Médicis, deeply Catholic in spirit, and fearing perhaps the political influence of the Protestants, resorted to every intrigue in order to obtain full power during the reign of her sons, François II and Charles IX. These princes, young and with no force of character, are remembered for the horrible religious wars, carried on, one might say, under their very windows.

Catherine de Medicis.

In 1572, on the night of Saint-Barthélemy, Charles IX gave the signal, from the balcony of the Louvre, for the massacre of the Protestants. Even women and children were assassinated in the streets. This horrible slaughter of the innocent was plotted and combined by Catherine de Médicis, the Queen Mother, who was an Italian by birth. Overwhelmed by remorse, Charles IX died two years later.

So this family, which had degenerated from the admirable François I to the almost abject Henri III, was to disappear with the last son of Catherine de Médicis and Henri II. Henri III was frivolous; he was preoccupied only about his pleasures and his dress. He died without leaving any heirs.

HENRI IV, or « HENRY OF NAVARRE »

The throne thus unexpectedly passed into the hands of one of the most interesting Kings of France : Henri IV, or Henri of Navarre. Brought up almost as a peasant, he used to run about barefoot when he was a child, wearing rough clothes, eating coarse food, and playing with the children of the poor.

Henri IV, King of France.

Henri IV was a Protestant. It is easy to understand that, after the religious wars which had shaken France at its base, the Catholic Party was not ready to recognize this heretic King. The league of Catholics were so opposed to Henri of Navarre, or Henri IV, that they made him fight for the kingdom which he had inherited from his cousin, Henri III.

Though victorious, he did not wish to prolong the dissensions that were destroying the unity of the country. So he joined the Catholic faith, to which the majority of his subjects belonged. Immediately, the cities which had been closed to him, opened their doors.

The lesson which Henri IV seems to have learned in this bitter experience of religious conflict, is one of tolerance. In 1598, by the Edict of Nantes, he accorded perfect liberty to the Protestants in the exercise of their religion. This resolution ended the religious wars.

Henri IV devoted the rest of his life to the peaceful organization of his country. He encouraged Champlain to colonize Canada. Aided by a great states-

Beginning of 16th cent. 1638–40 1637 1630 Dandy 1670 Peasants Gentleman. 1675–76

man, Sully, he developed the industries, the commerce, and the agriculture of France. He protected the peasants and founded homes for the poor and hospitals for the sick. There was something great, human and captivating about the personality of Henri IV. When, in 1610, he was assassinated by a miserable lunatic, all France wept for this King, who had shown a great heart, a love of his country and people, a simplicity and cheerfulness of character which had endeared him to all.

The conception held by this man of genius concerning foreign politics resembled in principle President Wilson's plan for a *League of Nations*. Henri IV proposed a grand uniting of Europe in what he called the « Christian Republic ». All conflicts were to be referred to a supreme council, composed of delegates from every State.

It is three hundred years since Henri of Navarre dreamed this dream. The unity of France was at that time menaced not only politically from without, but it was threatened by religious strife from within. Indeed the last of the rebellious nobles did not surrender for many years, and the principles of democracy was not to triumph, even in theory, until the Revolution of 1789.

RICHELIEU

The work of organization which Henri IV, aided by Sully, had accomplished, was not to be continued. His heir, Louis XIII, was but a child when his father was assassinated. Immediately he became a prey to the intrigues of an Italian mother : Marie de Médicis, and of her dependants. They soon squandered the economies of Sully. Yet, as always happened in France, this new crisis, which resulted in the uprising of the nobles, aroused the genius of one of the greatest statesmen which France has known: Richelieu. During the entire reign of Louis XIII, Richelieu was the power behind the throne. His policy was to combat the enemies who menaced or retarded the unity of France. He determined to ruin the Protestant party, to crush the nobles, and to abolish the influence of Austria.

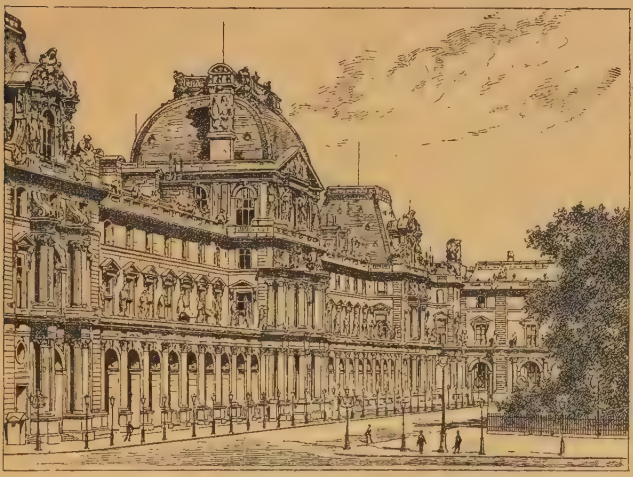
Richelieu.

To this end, he began by seizing La Rochelle, which was the stronghold of the Protestants. He left them

THE PROVINCES OF FRANCE

France did not become a united kingdom with an absolute monarch until Louis XIV came to the throne in 1643. Up to that time, and until the Revolution, the land was divided into provinces. These provinces were first possessed and then governed by the various lords who were more or less subject to the King.

free to keep their faith, but forced them to surrender politically to his superior force. The nobles he treated with a high hand : those who disobeyed him were cast into prison, or put to death on the scaffold.



Part of the Palace of Louvre, the most important public building in Paris. It served as royal residence for 400 years.

Richelieu died in 1642, before he had ended the war which he undertook against the Austrians. To persecute those whose ideals displeased him was not his sole occupation. He was also a devoted patron of the arts ; he founded the French Academy, an intellectual and literary body of forty men who to-day still have more prestige than any similar group throughout the world. The members are elected for life by the suffrage of their colleagues. They are known as the « Forty Immortals ».

LOUIS XIV

In 1643 Louis XIV came to the throne. He was at t hat time only five years old, so that the direction of the Government was assumed by his mother, the regent, and by an Italian statesman, Mazarin, who rendered many services to France. He had been designated for this purpose by Richelieu, who had him appointed a Cardinal. As Cardinal-Minister, Mazarin directed successful wars against Austria and Spain who were at that time the arch-enemies of France. These were ended with the signing of a peace favourable to France. The two military heroes of the day were Condé and Turenne. But Mazarin was not liked by the people, and a civil war, called the Fronde, broke out in Paris.

Louis XIV, by Rigaud.

Mazarin was stronger than those who opposed him. The most gifted military General, the Prince of Condé, a *Frondeur*, rather than yield to Mazarin, whom he

hated, passed over to the Spanish and lead an army against France. Near Dunkirk, in 1658, he was defeated by the other great General of the hour, Turenne.

Spain asked for peace and again a treaty favourable to France was concluded.

The final acquisitions of territory restored to France by these two treaties signed toward the middle of the

The Right wing of the Palace of Versailles, seen from the court-yard, built by Louis XIV (1661–1710).

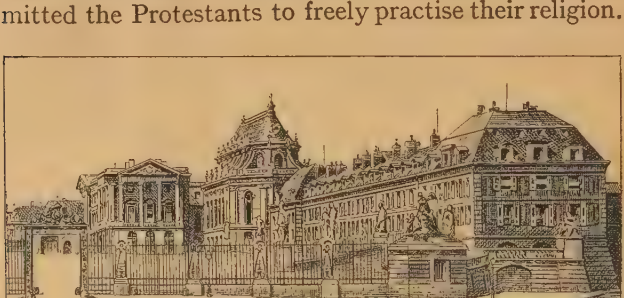
17th century, completed the unity of the kingdom for which the French had been struggling for so many centuries, for over a thousand years in fact.

In 1661, at the death of Cardinal Mazarin, Louis XIV became the absolute monarch of France, which was the most powerful State in Europe.

There was scarcely a time, however, during the reign of Louis XIV, when he was not at war with some power : his first campaign was undertaken in 1668 against the Spanish, who were forced to give up Flanders to the French. The second war, which lasted for six years (1672-1678), was fought by most of

the powers of Europe — England, Spain and Germany — against France, whose army triumphed on land as did her fleet on sea. The important province of Franche-Comté was added to the royal domains.

In 1688 another war broke out. Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes (1685) whereby Henri IV had permitted the Protestants to freely practise their religion.



The Left wing of the Palace of Versailles seen from the court-yard. About 10 000 people could dwell in this royal residence.

The Protestant Huguenots left France in great numbers, and the war which resulted lasted nine years. The French were defeated at last on the sea, and the only advantage they obtained on land was the attribution, when peace was signed, of the city of Strasburg.

Still another war was undertaken in 1701. The King of England, William III, formed an Alliance with Holland, Prussia, Austria, Portugal, Sweden and Savoy. France's only ally was Bavaria, and this struggle dragged on for twelve years. Finally, in 1713, a peace was signed, disastrous to the French.

The following year Louis XIV died at Versailles. He had been for seventy-two years on the throne of France and he left the kingdom, in spite of the depletion caused by incessant wars, greater from every point of view than when he came into power.

Turenne.

The constant campaigns on land and sea called forth the military and naval genius of many ardent patriots. Turenne, Condé, Villars, Luxembourg, the names of these generals and of the admirals Duquesne, Tourville, and the corsair Jean Bart, are renowned in history.

Yet it is not the exploits of the army during the reign of Louis XIV which have remained of lasting interest to humanity. It is the progress made in the arts, in literature, in architecture, in the industrial arts and in the forms of social intercourse. To be sure, bath-tubs were still rare in those days and steam heat and modern plumbing had not been invented. Civilization, however, has not surpassed the perfection then reached in cooking, in house-furnishing, in moral refinement, in the entertainment of friends, in worldly conduct, in politeness and courtesy, in the grace of all human relations. The art of living, as it was practised at the Court

The Prince of Condé.

of Louis XIV, in his palace at Versailles, remains an example to the rest of the world. Around this imposing King were gathered the great men of France: the immortal playwrights whose dramas and comedies were given at the royal palace before being offered to the public, were Corneille, Racine and Molière.

Pierre Corneille.

La Fontaine wrote at this time the fables which have made him famous. The prose authors were Pascal, Bossuet, Fénelon, each of whom has made a characteristic mark in French letters.

The architects and landscape gardeners, who embellished the palace of the Louvre and designed the palace and gardens of Versailles and the Hôtel des Invalides in Paris, were Perrault, Mansart and Le Nôtre.

The painters and sculptors who left great works were Le Brun, Poussin, Puget, Largillière, Rigaud, Van der Meulen.

La Fontaine.

The luxury with which Louis XIV surrounded himself, while it was unscrupulous, was never sordid. An anecdote will give an idea of what one might call the distinguished frivolity of these times. The Prince of Conti, wishing to show his admiration for some beautiful lady of the court, ordered a present for her. Knowing that she owned a

canary of which she was particularly fond, he asked some well-known painter to make the portrait of this favourite bird, in a miniature small enough to be worn as a ring. The setting was a diamond cut in such a way that it covered the miniature without concealing it. This stone, because of its size, shape and quality, cost the enormous sum of one hundred thousand dollars.

Molière.

The fair lady, of course, found it too precious a gift to accept. She returned it to her extravagant admirer. Thereupon the Prince of Conti had the gem ground to powder. He wrote a despairing love-letter to his adorable friend and dried the ink with diamond dust!

When Louis XIV came to be absolute monarch of France, he made a celebrated declaration : « *L'Etat, c'est moi* », he said ; « I am the State. » He had forgotten the two important forces which had been at work in France since the Middle Ages : one, the association of the people in the « commons » for the defence of their rights ; the other, the excellent schools and universities open to all who cared to perfect their education. This brilliant and tyrannical king had no thought whatever for the poor, for those who worked in poverty and obscurity. But his indifference could not undo the progress which for centuries had been slowly emancipating the people. Indeed, his unscrupulous extravagance and his ferocious egoism undoubtedly precipitated the revolution which was to end disastrously for the monarchy.

Lady 1702 — 1729 — 1730-40 — Lady Abby Louis XV — Dandy 1779-80 — Lady and servant 1785

At his death, in 1715, Louis XIV was succeeded by his great-grandson, Louis XV. Like his illustrious ancestor, he was a child of five when he came to the throne.

Married to the daughter of a former King of Poland, Louis XV attempted to succeed his father-in-law, Stanislas, on the throne of that country. This pretension aroused the ire of Austria and resulted in another war, in which England and Holland were once more joined. A treaty of peace favourable to every nation but France had no sooner been signed, in 1738, than a new conflict broke out. England, allied with Prussia, declared war against France and Austria, a war which lasted seven years and which is known as « The Seven Years War ». The Prussian armies were commanded by Frederic the Great. The French suffered defeat on sea and on land. In this long and disastrous campaign they lost some of their most important colonies and the better part of their fleet.

When Louis XV first came to the throne he was called « the beautiful ». All the hopes centred in him met with deception. His excessive selfishness amounted to a vice. His desire for pleasure and diversion, whatever the cost, dominated his preoccupations for his country. When at last, in 1774, he died of small-pox at Versailles, there was general rejoicing.

THE PHILOSOPHERS

Little by little the power had for centuries been accumulating in the hands of the monarch ; now it had become so much greater than the King himself felt that it was soon to escape him. The spirit of independence, the love of learning and of truth among the people were to make themselves felt. In the days of Louis XV and of Louis XVI the dominating influence was not that of the kings ; it was the philosophers, the learned men, who were listened to with conviction ; the French thinkers of the eighteenth century formulated the programme of human liberty which the masses were to execute in the unfortunately violent form of a revolution.

Voltaire, statue by Houdon.

J.-J. Rousseau.

The writers of genius during the reign of Louis XV were Voltaire, who ridiculed all that was not human ; Rousseau, who, in a most artificial society, made nature fashionable ; Montesquieu, who wrote about foreign lands and theorized about modern law ; Buffon, whose love of animals has made him celebrated. All of these men were opposed to

the monarchical system, whereby the King, the nobility and the clergy claimed extravagant privileges merely through right of birth.

Montesquieu.

Politeness is such an essential of French life and of the French mind, that these independent thinkers did not openly attack the King and his somewhat dissolute courtiers. They wrote satires with the most delicate wit, they made fun of all that was not fraternal and democratic in the customs of the day.

Science had also begun to be discussed: Lavoisier was the first great chemist; Montgolfier invented the balloon. But even in these more arid branches of knowledge the French never considered study the end and object of existence; they considered learning as a means of making life itself better and more just for all.

Lavoisier.

So the great lesson became apparent, that it was not Kings with their vast fortunes and their absolute power, presumably bestowed upon them by divine right, who were to remain the inevitable masters. As long as the monarch served the interests of the nation by seeking to unite under a single government the various warring elements which threatened to divide the land, so long was the King a useful representative of popular justice. But, when the unity of

France was established and when, his work accomplished, the King had, so to speak, become a man of leisure, who sought only his own pleasure, then he could no longer hold the foremost place in the thoughts or in the feelings of his people. The breach which had widened for centuries between the sovereign and his subjects, was filled now by the constructive ideas of the great thinkers, whose minds and hearts, brilliant and human, made clear and possible the way to emancipation.

Lafayette.

Louis XVI, and his Austrian wife, Marie-Antoinette, who succeeded Louis XV, were more and more indifferent to the poignant truths of existence; they felt more and more lightly the responsibilities of their heavy charge. The frivolity of the Court became scandalous; the taxes imposed upon the middle and lower classes were overwhelming. The cost of the King's guard, composed of 9,050 men, amounted to almost 8,000,000 fr. a year. There were 1857 horses and 217 carriages in the stables. To look after them 1458 persons were employed whose liveries alone cost 500,000 fr., bringing the total for riding and driving to over six million francs. Further astounding items are : 3,660,491 fr. for the table expenses, 300,000 fr. for vines, and an extra million a year for fish and game!

Rochambeau.

V. — THE REVOLUTION

CAUSES AND OUTBREAK

Men whose minds are free can never be made the slaves of anyone. Moreover, the French themselves were the first to use the motto : « Ridicule kills ». The principles of the Court were dissolute ; what reason remained for respecting the King and his courtiers? The terrible reaction which, during the reign of Louis XVI, spread like wild-fire over France, ended in the bloodiest of revolutions. Before the first acts of violence were accomplished, there was a movement for freedom in France, which directly affected the United States.

Benjamin Franklin.

While Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette were still at the Court of Versailles, they were visited by the incomparable Benjamin Franklin and by other statesmen, Silas Deane, John Jay, etc., who roused the interest of France in the cause of American liberty. The greatest impulse was given at this time to our struggling Yankee armies by the young Marquis de Lafayette. He was supping at Metz with the brother of the King of England, when he heard of the revolt of the American colonies. His decision was prompt :

Lafayette and Washington.
This monument stands on the Place des États-Unis, in Paris.

a new people were fighting for freedom, he wished to go at once to their aid. As soon as possible, although he was only nineteen, already married, a father, and entrusted with an important office at Court, he left France, setting sail for America with troops and supplies. This was only a beginning of the vast assistance which was given to Washington by the French, by Rochambeau on land, by Grasse at sea, and which actually determined the final victory over the English at Yorktown.

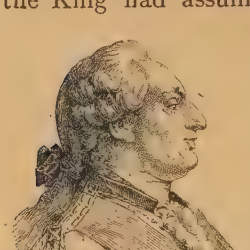
Mirabeau.

The group of French noblemen who fought in the war of Independence were ably fitted, on their return to France, to propagate ideas of liberty and freedom.

It was too late to influence the King — three generations too late. He was going to his ruin, hastened thither by the influence of the Queen Marie-Antoinette, an Austrian, whose faith in God and the royal dynasty were the same. When at last the Court, overwhelmed with debts, had so far crushed the people with taxes that they had no bread to eat, Marie-Antoinette cried out : « If they have no bread, let them eat cake ! » The tragic death of Marie-Antoinette on the scaffold and her dignity in her extreme suffering and humiliation have more than atoned for her pitiful weaknesses.

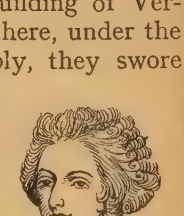
At last, in 1789, Louis XVI, beginning dimly to understand the folly of his egoism and to fear for his life, assembled the States General (Etats-Généraux). This body of men, which included the nobles, the clergy and the bourgeois, had, as we have seen, been convoked

for the first time five hundred years before, in the days of Philippe IV, surnamed « the Beautiful ». As the King had assumed more and more power, the States General had fallen into desuetude. It was now to be found by Louis XVI that the time for union among his subjects had passed. On May 5th, 1789, the States General was called at Versailles, only to be immediately adjourned. The nobles and clergy refused to sit with the bourgeois, or members of the middle class.



Louis XVI.

The middle class thereupon refused further obedience to the King. They assembled in a building of Versailles called the « Jeu de Paume » ; there, under the new name of the Constituant Assembly, they swore that they would not separate until they had given France a Constitution. They proclaimed the sovereignty of the Nation and abolished the privileges of the nobility. they declared that all Frenchmen were equal in the eyes of the law, that every man must have his chance to win all the honors he merited to the full extent of his personal ability ; they opened to all certain professions which had been reserved for the nobles ; they declared that work of every kind, the exercise of all industries, the holding of political opinions and the practice of religious beliefs should be free



Marie-Antoinette.

The King and the Court were in violent opposition to these natural adversaries. The final clash came on July 14, 1789, when the people of Paris in a general uprising seized the Bastille, a vast prison where, since the Middle Ages, all political prisoners had been

In the hall of the Jeu de Paume at Versailles the deputies swear to give France a Constitution and liberty.

incarcerated by the Kings, sometimes for long years, with no other condemnation than the royal displeasure which they had incurred. The Bastille had been mockingly called by the people : « The King's closet ».

The following year, on July 14, the anniversary of the seizing of the Bastille was celebrated, as it is now every year, by the French people. They called this holiday « Federation Day », as it symbolized for them the union of all the loyal French.

A National Guard was established in the various cities throughout France, and the former white flag of the royal party was replaced by the red, white and blue flag which to-day is the flag of the French Republic.

The King, perceiving that he had no further chance

of dominating the people, and fearing for his life, attempted to escape. He was captured at Varennes, in 1791, and brought back to Paris.

This sudden strike for freedom, this popular outburst against autocracy had begun to disturb the royal

The taking of the Bastille, on July 14, 1789, which date commemorates the independence of the French people.

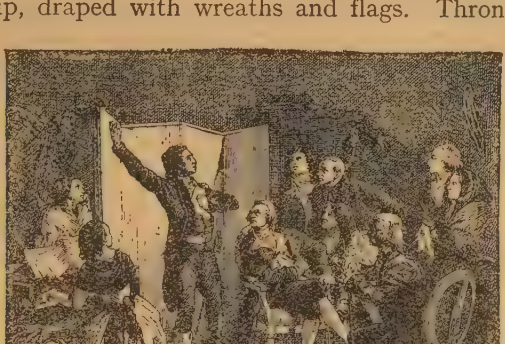
neighbors of Louis XVI. All the Kings of Europe threatened to invade France. Many of the French noblemen had escaped to other countries and they now enlisted in the forces about to take up arms against liberty-loving France. Popular indignation against the nobles had increased as this fact became known.

But the Constituant, or, as it was now called, the Legislative Assembly, did not lose courage nor alter its determination. On the contrary, it took the offensive and declared war against Prussia and Austria.

The crowds of Paris marched in a body to the royal palace of the Louvre, they seized the King and Queen, their children and the various members of the royal family, whom they led in captivity to the Temple, where they were imprisoned.

THE CALL TO ARMS

Meanwhile an army of volunteers was being formed. On all the public places and squares, platforms were set up, draped with wreaths and flags. Throngs of



Rouget de Lisle singing the first time the Marseillaise in Strasburg, by Pils.

young men and old came to enlist for the defence of the Republic against the invading armies of the Coalition.

The first battles brought defeat to the Republicans, but, in 1792, the French troops vanquished the Prussians at Valmy. The national hymn of the « Marseillaise » had just been composed by Rouget de Lisle in Strasburg. It was sung as the blood of the French was shed for the first time in the cause of human liberty.

The Legislative Assembly was replaced by the Con-

vention, which formally abolished Royalty and openly proclaimed the Republic on January 21, 1793. This body of men also condemned the King to death. Louis XVI was beheaded in Paris on the guillotine which stood on the Place de la Concorde (formerly the Place Louis XV and then the Place de la Revolution).

The effect of this extreme act was twofold : it roused greater hostility on the part of the kings of Europe and in France it provoked civil war. Brittany and Vendée, two provinces of France which had remained loyal to the monarchical régime, took up arms. Lyons Marseilles, Toulouse, Toulon, rose up in defence of the Republic.

To cope with the ever-increasing confusion in national affairs, the Convention formed a Committee of Public Safety (Comité de Salut Public), which thenceforth governed France, and a Revolutionary Tribunal, which tried and condemned all conspirators. Anyone who was even suspected of hostility to the Republic was sent immediately to the scaffold. The Queen, Marie-Antoinette, the sister of Louis XVI, Madame Elisabeth, the Royalist deputies of the Gironde, and thousands of others perished, one after the other, on the guillotine. Indeed, during the period which is known as the Reign of Terror the members of the Revolutionary Tribunal suspected each other : Robespierre comdemned Danton, whom he considered too moderate in his opinions, but a coalition of the liberals with a part of the extremists in turn condemned Robespierre to death. At least ten thousand victims perished during these terrible months of the Terror, which lasted from June 2, 1793, until Robespierre had lost his head on the guillotine, on July 17, 1794.

The Volunteers, by Rude. This high-relief is part of the decoration of the Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile in Paris. An engraving of it is given to the family of every French soldier killed during the war.

The price paid for liberty was dear indeed. Many innocent women, many fine men had been beheaded simply because, by birth, they belonged to the Royalist party. But the war was not one against persons, it was in opposition to the principle of autocracy. In the days of the kings it had been established that the heir to the throne was sovereign by Divine Right. His coronation had always been celebrated with the solemnity of a Holy Sacrament. The Archbishop of Rheims, as the representative of God, had placed the crown upon the head of the king, declaring : « Receive this crown, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. » The last kings had proved far from worthy of this spiritual heritage. It was inevitable that it should be taken from them, and that the mystery which had surrounded all these ceremonies should be dissipated. The divine right of every man, according to the tenets of the new republic, was not that he should, by the mere accident of birth, be a king, but that he should feel his responsibilities as a living, human conscience.

Thus, whatever the violence and even the brutality which the members of the Convention had been obliged to show, the Republic had come to life, and never again, in spite of its many adventures and its numerous enemies, was it to be entirely crushed.

The new spirit with which the troops were now animated, though they were insufficiently nourished and clad in rags, gave them victory all along the line. Commanded by Hoche, Marceau, and other young generals of extraordinary military genius, at Wattignies and at Fleurus they vanquished the European Powers who were fighting against them and who were forced at last, in 1795, to ask for peace.

THE DEPARTMENTS OF FRANCE

During the days of the French Revolution the administrative organization of France was changed by the revolutionary committees. Fearing the influence of royal traditions, they subdivided the former 33 provinces into 83 departments, to which they gave new names; their actual number is 87. Each department has a préfet, or governor, and several sous-préfets, or vice-governors.

1790 1794 1797 Incredible Marvellous 1st Empire 1827

The civil war also had been brought to an end by General Hoche, who gained a decisive victory over the province of Vendée.

Immediately realizing that the great misfortunes of any country are brought about by ignorance, the Convention began to organize primary schools, high schools and normal schools. Slavery was abolished in the French colonies, a system of weights and measures was established, a project was elaborated for a new Civil Code.

It became necessary to give the government a more definite form than that which had sufficed during the Revolution. In 1795 the Convention was therefore replaced by a Directory composed of five members who were aided in their task by two assemblies : the Council of the Ancients and the Council of the Five Hundred.

But the troubles of France were not over : England and Austria had not wanted to make peace with her after the Battle of Fleurus. In such days of unending wars it was natural that a military genius should reveal himself. Almost as soon as the man who was to occupy Europe with his exploits, took command of an army, his officers declared : « We have found our master. »

BONAPARTE

Born in Corsica in 1769, Bonaparte was now twenty-six years old. He had made his way in the world by his natural gifts. At the age of nine he had won a prize which gave him the right to continue his studies at a military school in France. At fifteen he was designated for the Military School of Paris, where his talents attracted attention. At the age of twenty four, after his gallant conduct during the siege which the English had laid before Toulon, he had been made General. Now he was to undertake a brilliant campaign against the Austrians, who were established in Italy. He beat them in half a dozen places and finally, in 1797, peace was signed.

Bonaparte crossing the Alps.

The exercise of his talents in the defence of France had given Bonaparte a longing for conquest. He determined to occupy Egypt in order to keep the English from the direct route to India, where they possessed vast colonies. This was the beginning of the great Napoleonic campaigns, the long struggle between

Napoleon and the English, which was to end for him in disaster and exile.

Bonaparte, for he was still Bonaparte, and not yet

The 18th of Brumaire (November 9, 1799) after the painting by Bouchot.

Napoleon, was victorious in Egypt. He seized Cairo, the capital, but during these successful exploits on land, the French fleet was destroyed and the European Powers were once more forming a Coalition, in which

England wished to include Russia, Austria, Turkey, the kingdoms of Naples and Sardinia.

Leaving his Egyptian army in the command of Kléber, Bonaparte returned to Paris, and there, making a sudden strike for power, he overthrew the Directory and, on November 9, 1799, he was named First Consul.

The Consulate was to last from 1799 to 1804. Continuing the wars against Austria, Bonaparte finally, after further victories in Italy, obtained a treaty of peace whereby the left bank of the Rhine was restored to the French.

In Egypt, however, the French had met with reverses. Kléber had been assassinated and the disorganization which followed was serious. Finally peace was signed with England but France was forced to abandon Egypt.

Bonaparte, in 1801, concluded an agreement with the Pope. This *Concordat*, as it was called, specified the relations between the Church and the State. Many of the members of the Catholic Party who had been hostile to the religious policy of the Revolution, were, by this diplomatic act, reconciled to the First Consul.

The personal ambition of Bonaparte was indomitable. The obstacles which assailed him he converted into so many irresistible reasons for becoming the supreme ruler.

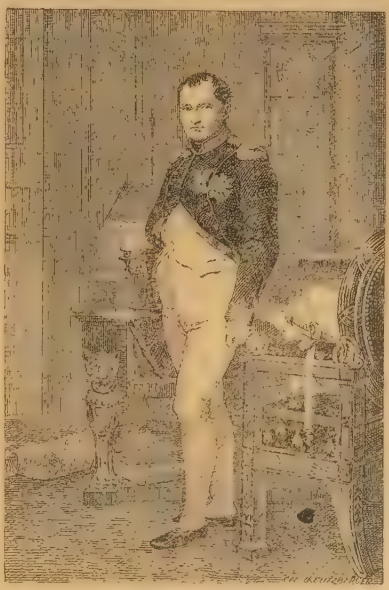
Already, as early as the year 1800, an attempt upon his life made in Paris at the moment when he was on his way to the Opera, had aroused his suspicion of the Republicans. He ordered thirty of them deported, without any previous judgment or trial.

In 1802, it was decreed on his demand that the Consulate should be made a life office.

VI. — THE XIX CENTURY

THE FIRST EMPIRE

On May 18, 1804, Bonaparte, under the title of Napoleon I, was proclaimed Emperor of the French. Hostile to this new monarch, the English favoured the descendants of Louis XVI. War shortly broke out between England and France. Napoleon massed his armies at Boulogne, prepared to cross the channel and fight the English on their own territory. The English, alarmed, induced Austria and Russia to join with them against the French. Napoleon, advancing through Europe as far as Vienna, crushed the Austro-Russian armies at Austerlitz. This battle was fought on December 2, the anniversary of the day when Napoleon had crowned himself at the Cathedral of Notre-



Napoleon I, Emperor.

Dame in Paris. His soldiers, who followed him to the end with the intense, passionate attachment that men feel for such a military leader, had promised that on this holiday they would bring him the flags of the

The Coronation of Napoleon, at Notre-Dame of Paris, after the painting by David.

enemy. They remembered the astounding gesture of Napoleon at the solemn hour of his Coronation. Though the Pope, Pius VII, was present, as the « representative of God », Napoleon took the crown from him, and placed it upon his own head. Such was the custom of the most despotic Tzars. After the defeat at Austerlitz, Austria soon had enough of this conflict with Napoleon's troops. She signed a treaty of peace in 1805.

An old foe of France but a new foe of Napoleon, now joined the ranks of his enemies : Prussia. Napo-

leon beat the Germans at Iena in 1806; he beat the Russians at Eylau and at Friedland. Finally, in 1807, peace was once more signed.

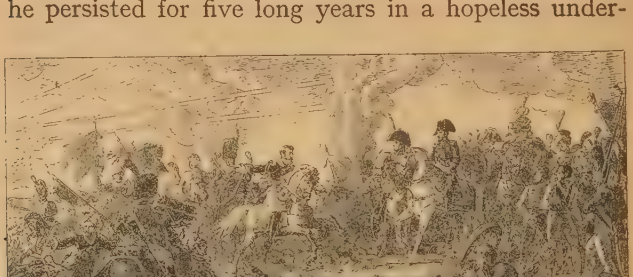
Magnified by these victories, Napoleon's ambition now bestowed upon the various members of his family the small kingdoms and duchies which his armies had conquered. In 1808 he placed his brother on the throne of Spain. The result was a war which lasted for five years and cost the lives of many of Napoleon's best troops.

The Empress Josephine, the first wife of Napoleon Bonaparte.

While Napoleon was in Spain, England planned with Austria another war against France. The Austrians were beaten at Wagram and, in 1809, at Vienna, still another treaty of peace was signed. Before his first campaign in Italy, Bonaparte had married Joséphine de Beauharnais. It was now imperative that Napoleon should have a son and heir. The marriage with Joséphine was childless. For no other reason she was divorced in 1810 and her place was taken by the Archduchess Marie-Louise, the daughter of the Emperor of Austria. The son who was born of this union never came to the throne.

By his extraordinarily magnetic personality and because of his astounding military genius, Napoleon had arrived at the same concentration of power which had brought Louis XIV and his successors to ruin. His will recognized no obstacles. When he feared that the young Duke of Enghien, a descendant of the Bourbon family, was plotting against him, although

he was only Consul, he had this rival arrested without justification, condemned without witnesses and shot without any proof whatever of his guilt. When his ambitions impelled him to begin a campaign in Spain, he persisted for five long years in a hopeless under-



The Battle of Austerlitz, one of the great victories of Napoleon's armies.

taking and he sacrificed the better part of his army to gratify his vanity. When the moment came for him to found a dynasty he repudiated his childless wife in order to marry the daughter of an Emperor.

Judged from the human point of view, Napoleon's life is a succession of projects so unlimited that they must finally meet with disappointment. The world in those days, as in these, could not be conquered by mere force. The violent movement in favour of individual freedom which the French people had made during the Revolution, though it had seemingly subsided, was smouldering only. This people who had won their liberty at the cost of a most bloodthirsty reign of terror would not accept without reflection an Emperor, constant wars against all Europe,

many of them disastrous to France and an Empress in the place of the Queen whom they had beheaded.

The very organizations which Napoleon had planned were to turn against him ; they were to help the people to establish with greater stability the Republic.

It was Napoleon who elaborated the administrative system which is still in use in France. The Courts of Justice and the nomination of the judges, some of them for life, were regulated. The Bank of France was given the unique right to issue bank-notes.

The Empress Marie-Louise, second wife of Napoleon Bonaparte.

The revolutionary committees had drawn up in detail various legal projects which Napoleon studied and grouped in the form of a Civil Code, or the Code Napoleon. This voluminous work, inspired by the spirit of the Revolutionists, was based on the principle of respect for individual liberty and property, of equality for all, in the eyes of the law. The Code determined the social status of each person, and the conditions necessary to him for the enjoyment of civil rights ; it made the registration of births, marriages and deaths obligatory; it regulated the legal constitution of the family, and finally it determined the disposition of worldly belongings, whether by the transfer or sale of property during life, or its bequeathal after death. The Code Napoleon is the basis of French social existence to-day.

Napoleon founded the Order of the Legion of Honour as a recompense for those who serve and honour their country. He organized the Comédie-

Française, which existed already as a classic theatre, but he regulated the system of appointment, remuneration and pensioning of the members of this illustrious troop of actors. He established a censorship which stifled the newspapers ; their popularity, he believed, had facilitated the spreading of public opinion during the Revolution. These were the works of Napoleon's peaceful moments, but the wars had not yet ended.

Unable to settle with the Tzar of Russia certain discussions which he found had dragged on too long and involved too many of his interests, Napoleon, with an army of 500,000 men, invaded Russia on June 24, 1812. After successive victories, these troops entered Moscow. The emperor established himself in the Palace of the Russian Tzars. But the Russians preferred to see their city destroyed rather than in the hands of the enemy : Moscow was soon in flames and Napoleon was forced in the early winter to begin a retreat which proved a gigantic disaster. Almost his entire army perished of cold and misery.

This was the moment for the enemies of France to form a new coalition.

Abandoning the army in Russia, which was reduced from 500,000 to 40,000 men, Napoleon hastened to Paris and set out upon another campaign against Germany; he was victorious at Dresden, but he lost the battle of Leipzig in 1813, and France was again invaded. Prussia, taking the lead, persuaded Sweden to join with her. Denmark sided with France.

France had now been fighting almost incessantly for twenty years. Though she was exhausted, she mobilized an army of 300.000 men, who were at first victorious, in 1813. Austria proposed to mediate, but Napoleon refused this offer, and the Emperor of

Austria, though his daughter was Empress of France, joined with the other Powers against Napoleon.

A second great battle which lasted three days, — October 16, 17, 18, — was fought at Leipzig. More than 100 000 men met their death in this battle which was called the battle of Nations. The French were obliged to fall back, fighting as they retreated. His army was practically wiped out. Yet such was the prestige of France that her enemies preferred to treat with her, rather than to fight her on her own soil.

The Chancellor of the Austrian Empire was charged by the coallied powers to propose peace. France, according to this treaty, was to maintain her natural frontiers, the Rhine, the Alps, and the Pyrenees. Napoleon refused to negotiate. Like an avalanche, the enemies then descended upon France. Closing in from the North and the South, the Prussians had soon driven Napoleon's brothers from the thrones of Holland and of Spain, where he had placed them. Murat, King of Naples, whom Napoleon had put upon the throne of Naples, which was then a separate kingdom, betrayed his friend and his country ; in order to save his own position, he passed over to the enemy.

Denmark, isolated, was forced to make peace with Russia and England. Napoleon was left with only 60,000 men to face the most formidable coalition which had ever threatened a nation. The enemies were pouring into France from the Pyrenees, from the Alps, from the North-East, from all sides.

These overwhelming difficulties seemed to bring new inspiration to the military genius of Napoleon. In January 1814, fighting on the same ground which has now been disputed for four years, he beat the

Prussians on the Marne, at Montmirail, at Craonne and at Rheims ; he triumphed over the Russians, the Prussians and the Swedes ; at Montereau he crushed the Austrians and forced them to fall back upon Troyes.

Once more, as in the days of Attila, in 451, as in the days of Von Kluck in 1914, the enemies' troops massed at Châlons, prepared to descend upon Paris by the valleys of the Seine and of the Marne. On March 30, 1814, Napoleon hastening with all speed to the capital, learned that Paris had surrendered. He was vanquished by his foes, abandoned by his friends ; his generals themselves had failed him. The Senate pronounced his downfall.

On April 11, 1814, Napoleon signed his abdication in the Palace of Fontainebleau, where he had once held the Pope as prisoner, and where he had spent the first hours of his imperial existence after his marriage with the Archduchess, Marie-Louise.

Napoleon, with several of his faithful followers and a few soldiers, embarked for the Island of Elba, off the French coast in the Mediterranean, where he was to be kept a prisoner by his enemies.

An attempt was then made to restore the old régime. One of the brothers of Louis XVI, under the title of Louis XVIII, became King of France. (Louis XVII was the unfortunate son of Louis XVI ; a child at the time of the Revolution he was cast into prison, and tortured by his brutal keepers. His final destiny remains a mystery : no one knows in reality what became of this heir to the throne of France.)

There was a radical difference between the power as exercised by the last King of France, Louis XVI and his successor, Louis XVIII. Louis XVIII, consci-

ous of the transformation which the Revolution had wrought in public opinion, did not pretend to be sovereign by divine right; he established a representative government composed of the King, a Chamber of Deputies, and a House of Lords.

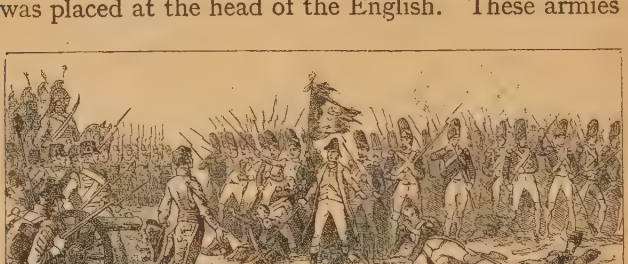
This measure was wise but it was accompanied by others which were disastrous for the cause of a liberal monarchy : Louis XVIII replaced the red, white and blue flag by the white flag of the pre-revolutionary Royalists; he endeavored as far as possible to reestablish the privileges of the aristocracy. As it was upon this very question that the guillotine had been called into action, he could not hope for popularity. Moreover he retired the officers of Napoleons' armies on half pay and he gave the places of favor to the nobles who had emigrated at the time of the Revolution.

Napoleon, well acquainted with the growing hostility which the people felt toward Louis XVIII, considered the moment propitious for him to attempt a coup d'État. He escaped from the island of Elba. He landed on the coast of France near Nice, at Gulf Joan and reached Paris on March 20, 1815. His entry was triumphal. His marvellous personality seemed once more to electrify all who came in contact with him. The troops who had been sent to resist him, as soon as he appeared fell at his feet with wild enthusiasm.

Louis XVIII escaped to Ghent in Belgium. Napoleon was again the master. His domination was to last for One Hundred Days.

Convinced that he could appease his enemies as he had captivated those of his former followers, who had momentarily been untrue to him, Napoleon vowed strictly to observe the treaty which had been drawn

up by the co-allied powers. But these powers did not even listen to his propositions. They determined upon immediate action against this man of genius. Blucher took command of the Prussians, Wellington was placed at the head of the English. These armies



The Battle of Waterloo.

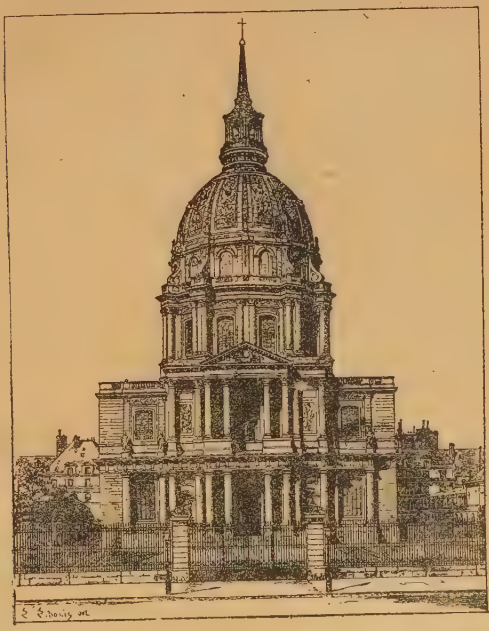
were to join forces in Belgium, while waiting for the Austrians and Russians to arrive on the eastern frontier of France

Hoping to keep the Prussians and English from massing their forces, Napoleon immediately took the offensive. He beat the Prussians at Ligny, on June 16, 1815, and was about to attack the English.

In spite of the torrential rain which made the roads almost impassable, Napoleon, with his armies, arrived the following day — June 17 — on the famous plateau near Waterloo. Wellington, who had preceded him, had already drawn his troops up on the most favorable positions : slight eminences gave him the advantage both for attack and for observation.

June 18, 1815, marks a never-to-be forgotten date : the Battle of Waterloo.

At one moment it seemed that Napoleon was the victor, but the forces of his enemies were increased disastrously for him by the arrival of the Prussian



The Dome of the Invalides, in Paris.

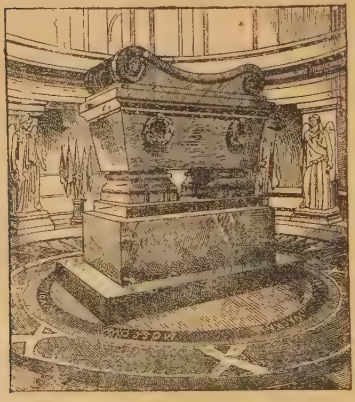
army under Blucher. The scenes of this battle are known to every school-boy ; the heroism of the French remains legendary.

Fighting to the end, the Old Guard, Napoleon's Imperial Guard, were rallied to the last man by the resounding appeal of their general :

« The Guard dies, it does not surrender ! »

Napoleon vanquished : these two words seemed a contradiction.

On June 22, 1815, for the second time, the Senate forced the Emperor to abdicate. Counting upon the generosity of the English, he gave himself up to them as prisoner. But they exiled him to the far distant island of Saint-Helena, where he died on May 21, 1821.



The Tomb of Napoleon in the Invalides.

During this essentially military period there were few writers whose names are to be remembered, aside from those of Chateaubriand and Madame de Staël.

The prestige of these twenty years of war remains with the leaders of Napoleon's armies : Ney, Soult, Lannes, Murat, Berthier, Davout, etc., fourteen field-marshalls in all.

The only remarkable scientific method established during such trying hostilities was that of Cuvier, a French scholar, whereby the entire skeleton of a prehistoric animal was reconstructed from a few existing bones. Industrial chemistry made certain strides : Chaptal discovered a process for manufacturing alum and saltpetre, for steam-bleaching and for dying cotton, or making Turkey-red, as it is called. The first work-rooms were opened by Richard and Lenoir for the spinning and weaving of

cotton. These men and others, who perfected minor inventions, were the pioneers of modern industry.

After the exceeding grace manifested, during the reigns of Louis XV and Louis XVI, in the arts of painting and house decoration, there was a classic reaction, which gave an appearance almost of military severity to all the productions of the Empire. The groups of artisans who had worked with an unbroken tradition until the end of the 18th century had been disorganized by the Revolution.

THE RESTORATION

It was perhaps inevitable that a second restoration of the monarchy should now be attempted. The enemies entered Paris on July 5, 1815, followed three days later by Louis XVIII, who was again made King.

The situation in France was terrible. Defeat had added to the general political confusion. It was difficult for a people to react after so many years of constant war with its attendant miseries and depletion, followed by the victory of enemies who included almost all the powers of Europe.

The treaty signed by the French on November 20, 1815, forced them to yield territory in the north and the east, to pay an indemnity of 700,000,000 francs, and for five years to support 150,000 enemy soldiers on their own soil. These foreign troops, quartered in the towns and villages, among the people who were obliged to lodge and feed them, comported themselves with little scruple, pillaging even the public monuments and museums.

The bitterness felt in some regions by the more conservative of the population caused occasional

1829 1836 1840 1848 1850 1854 1863 1869

violent outbreaks. The Royalists laid the blame for the afflictions of France on the partisans of the Revolution and the Empire. In certain departments there was almost a civil war. Indeed the ultra-royalist party went to such extremes that the King, Louis XVIII, became alarmed, and took certain measures to suppress the centres of reaction.

Finally, in 1818, French territory was evacuated definitively by the enemies' troops. But the state of unrest was too deep-seated for a peaceful period to ensue at once.

On February 13, 1820, a member of the royal family was assassinated by a workman. The liberal party were accused by the ultra-royalists of complicity in the crime and the freedom of the press and individual liberty were at once suppressed. Many secret societies were founded by the Liberals, the most notable among them being the celebrated *Carbonari*.

In 1824, Louis XVIII died and was succeeded by his brother Charles X. During his reign, France took part in the Revolution which Greece was fighting to gain freedom from Turkish domination.

France also became mistress at this time of the province of Algiers, in Africa.

In 1830, the old revolutionary longing for liberty

and independance again broke out stronger than ever. Charles X, obliged by the people to abandon the throne, died in exile.

He was succeeded by Louis-Philippe, son of the Duke of Orléans Philippe-Égalité, who had voted the death of the King at the time of the Revolution.

Louis-Philippe occupied the throne for eighteen years (1830-48). During this time there was less attention given to governing the nation than to discussing how it should be ruled. Aside from an expedition of 50.000 troops despatched to help Belgium win her freedom from Holland, and the definitive occupation of Algiers, there was for the time being a peaceful reaction after so many years of war. The direct effect upon literature was the creation of a romantic school. The poets and writers of this period are renowned : Victor Hugo, Lamartine, Alfred de Musset, Alfred de Vigny, were equally remarkable as poets, playwrights and novelists; Scribe devoted his lively wits to composing comedies which have diverted society for three generations; Sainte-Beuve won a great name as critic and portraitist; Thiers, Augustin Thierry, Guizot, Mignet, Michelet were the authors of delightful histories relating to various epochs of French history.

In spite of the broad principles of individual rights which had been elaborated by the leaders of the Revolution, only the rich people at this time were entitled to vote. The intended that every honest French man, rich or poor, should be an elector. The King was opposed to this idea. So, in 1848, a new uprising made it necessary for Louis-Philippe to escape from France. He died in exile. The Second Republic was proclaimed and the nephew of Napoleon I, Louis-Napoleon, was elected President.

THE SECOND EMPIRE

Three years later Louis-Napoleon overthrew the Republic and, in 1852, he had himself named Emperor of the French, under the title of Napoleon III.

Napoleon III, Emperor.

For this coup d'État of 1851 Napoleon chose the anniversary of the Battle of Austerlitz, December 2, when his uncle, Napoleon I, had scored a brilliant victory against the Austrians. Paris awoke on that bright winter morning to find that the government had changed during the night from a republic to an empire. So radical a transformation was not accomplished without some brutality. There were political victims, worse than that, there were innocent women and children killed in the streets of the city by the soldiers of Napoleon III, who had determined to establish his authority as emperor.

His reign, begun by an act of violence, was to end

by a war disastrous to France. To be sure, ever since the days of the Revolution, whatever the régime, there had been a gradual betterment of material and social conditions among the French people. Various enterprises and reforms inspired by the generous ideas of those who love liberty better than life, had continued to develop slowly and surely. When Napoleon had established himself as Emperor, he founded a convalescent home for workmen, he provided free district doctors for the poor people in the country, and, in the city, he gave shelters, or *crèches*, where mothers could place their babies in safe-keeping during working hours. Old age pensions were constituted for laborers. Commerce was made free to all, who could follow any branch of trade they chose, the railroads were extended, telegraph wires were stretched far and wide over the land, the coast was marked out by a system of lighthouses; 2,000 miles of highways and 75,000 miles of narrower intersecting roads were built. In 1859 work was begun on the Isthmus of Suez. The piercing of this canal was a prodigious piece of engineering due to the genius of F. de Lesseps, and which shortened by thousands of miles the route between Europe and Asia.

F. de Lesseps.

Yet, though the French nation and humanity at large benefited directly by these accomplishments, the fundamental principle of the imperial government was in contradiction with the French popular ideal. Under Napoleon III the régime was, as of old, one

of privilege. The court formed a group of favorites. The chief preoccupation of the emperor seems to have been to increase the worldly brilliance of France rather than to collaborate with the people in assuming the responsibilities of the nation. So, while an outward grandeur was maintained by this self-elected emperor, the people at heart did not sustain their sovereign's aim. The breach between him and those he governed grew always wider. The French had been « bled white » during the early part of the century. They wanted now to work in peace.

Yet during the 18 years Napoleon III occupied the throne he undertook agressive military expeditions in China, Cochinchina, Syria, as well as four important wars. The first of these was necessitated in 1852 by the disloyal attitude of the Mexicans toward the French, English and Spanish.

The second, known as the war of the Crimea, was undertaken in 1854 by the French, English and Turks against the Russians, who, it was feared, might occupy Constantinople. The Russians were defeated at Sebastopol (1855).

Meanwhile the Italians, as at the present moment, were fighting the Austrians. Napoleon joined with his neighbors and helped to rid Italian territory of the long-time enemy. He himself lead an army of 100,000 troops over the Alps and obtained two victories, at Magenta and at Solferino. France, as her reward for this assistance, was given the Italian counties of Nice and of Savoy.

These years both of active military combat and of lesser military effort, weakened the French armies so greatly that, in 1870, when the war broke out between Prussia and France, the French, after seven months of heroic struggle, were defeated.

THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR

The cause of the Franco-German war can be traced, like that of the present war, to the Prussian autocratic ambitions. Bismarck had, in those early days,

— The brilliant charge of the *Cuirassiers* at Reichshoffen.
Covering the armies in retreat they were completely annihilated.

conceived the idea of a « *Weltpolitik* », or a policy which would make the Hohenzollerns masters of the entire world.

Previous to the year 1866, Germany had been a confederation of principalities and duchies, the official head of which was the Emperor of Austria. In 1866, after the victory won by the Prussians over the Austrians, at Sadowa, Prussia became the dominating power of the German confederation.

In 1870, as the throne of Spain was momentarily without an heir, Bismarck decided to confer this heritage upon a Prince of the Hohenzollern dynasty.

Such a decision was not acceptable to Napoleon III. A diplomatic discussion ensued. Bismarck, determined upon war, deliberately falsified a despatch sent to him by the Emperor of Prussia and which is known, and has become famous as the « Ems despatch». (Ems was the watering place where William, the grandfather of the present Kaiser, was taking a « cure » in the month of July, 1870, when these important matters were being decided.) This despatch, the full text of which is quoted in French popular encyclopedias, showed a decidedly conciliatory tone, and the desire to continue the discussions begun with France. As the despatch, rewritten, left the hands of Bismarck, it could mean only a direct rupture with Napoleon III. The French nation, which little wanted war, still less could tolerate such an insult.

Thus war was declared and fighting began on August 2, 1870.

The Germans invaded France from the eastern frontier, obtaining victories at Wissembourg and at Reichshoffen. In spite of their heroic resistance at Gravelotte and Saint-Privat, the French were compelled to make a general retreat. Napoleon III was made prisoner at Sedan, and shortly afterward the French people proclaimed his downfall. On September 4, 1870, for the third and last time in less than a century, the Republic was established.

After the disgrace of the Emperor the war continued. The Prussians, as to-day, had their hopes fixed upon Paris. Their troops marched on, advancing toward the capital, spreading out on the roads to Soissons, Compiègne, Creil, Rheims, and in the valley of the Marne, where they occupied Epernay, Montmirail, Coulommiers, etc., etc., finally completely surrounding Paris.

THE SIEGE OF PARIS

The siege of the capital began on September 19, 1870. By October 21 there were 250,000 Germans outside the gates. Two things enabled the city to make an heroic resistance which surprised not only the Germans but all of Europe: one was the remarkable ardor and determination of the civil population, who were ready to make every sacrifice even to that of starvation, the other was the improvised organization of an army of defence.

Gambetta.

The first humiliating military defeats had demoralized the generals of the Empire. But the hero of the hour was a man who typified the spirit of democracy: Gambetta. Minister of the National Defence which, with the republican government, had remained in the besieged capital, Gambetta felt that his services could be of more use in some place where he could display greater activity. He escaped from Paris in a balloon. In spite of the aerial attacks made upon him in his flight — the Germans occupied at this time Dreux, Evreux, Chartres, Beauvais, Amiens, Rouen — Gambetta reached in safety the town of Tours. Here, with the assistance of able men such as Freycinet, and such as the republican generals, he succeeded, after a gigantic effort, in calling together and arming one million men, divided into several armies which distinguished themselves. They were not, however,

1870 1873 1882 1892 1896 1915 Cyclists Chauffeurs.

able to surmount the complications which had resulted inevitably from a radical change of governmental régime during war time, from a complete lack of unity, and a total absence of organization.

On January 28, 1871, an armistice was signed. Paris had been obliged to capitulate. For a long time, and this during the severest winter in many years, there had been neither food nor fuel in the capital. The trees of the Bois de Boulogne had been burned; horses, cats, rats had become the rarest luxuries on the menus of certain once fashionable restaurants which, with a spirited determination to die rather than to give in to the Boches, had kept their hospitable doors open to the public. The bread of the siege, samples of which are still to be had, was kneaded with a mixture of bran and straw.

The treaty of peace was signed in the beautiful Salle des Glaces (Hall of the Mirrors) in the Palace of Versailles, just outside of Paris, which the Germans had used as headquarters during the siege. From this spot they had, with the same spirit which characterizes them to-day, bombarded the museums of art and the hospitals of Paris.

The terms of the treaty were hard for a proud nation to bear: the French were to endure the occupation of their territory by the Germans until they had paid,

1906 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1917 1918

to the last cent, an indemnity of one thousand million dollars. More cruel than this was the loss of Alsace and Lorraine, the two provinces which were seized and definitely held by the Germans. The French inhabitants had no choice but to emigrate or to adopt German nationality, and to speak the German language. French was forbidden in the schools.

One of the very principles for which the Allies are fighting to-day is that a victorious nation, victorious through a war of conquest, shall not be allowed to impose upon the people it has conquered a nationality or a language other than their own. The national aspirations of the Alsatians and the Lorrains have never been German, nor in sympathy with German despotism and autocracy. Freedom will be brought to these long suffering people when the final military victory is won over the dynasty of the Hohenzollerns.

At the conclusion of the treaty of Versailles a feeling of rage swept over France. The people had not lost courage ; though they were at the end of many months of war, and though they had been defeated, they paid the war indemnity from their personal savings — one thousand million dollars – in five months time. They had determined moreover that, whatever the cost, they would now organize themselves in such a way as to render impossible the return of a despot, however liberal.

THE THIRD REPUBLIC

On March 18, 1871, the people of Paris, who had been the keenest sufferers during the war, proclaimed the Commune and started an insurrection which lasted until the end of May. The guillotine was not brought into use, but there were acts committed of terrible violence. Before order was established about 30,000 persons perished. A Republic was proclaimed which has lasted ever since.

Thiers, First President of the Third Republic.

The first presidency of the Third Republic was confided to the great French statesman : Thiers. He undertook the reorganization of the country and was so successful that for a time he was looked upon as the liberator of France. As early as September 1872 the last soldier of the army of occupation had been sent back to Germany. A government loan launched at this time, and which was the second since the conclusion of the war, was oversubscribed fourteen times.

This was only one of the manifestations of the high spirit with which the French determined at once to react from their defeat. The civil uprisings which had definitively established the Republic, had subsided only toward the end of May, 1871. It was four years (1875) before a Constitution, acceptable to all, had been formulated. Yet, in 1878, Paris, like a gracious hostess, opened her doors to the world. The French Government inaugurated a brilliant Fair, or Universal Exhibition, in which all the nations of

Europe, as well as America and the Colonies, participated.

The Palace of the Trocadéro, built for this occasion, remains as a souvenir of this revival of industrial energy in France. It is approached by a broad avenue, formerly called the Avenue du Trocadéro, but to which the French have now given the name of « President Wilson ».

Sadi-Carnot, President of the French Republic.

Eleven years later, Paris again became the centre for a World's Fair which was opened in 1889, by President Carnot. He was the grand-son of the patriotic Carnot, who had been one of the active instigators of the Revolution.

The astonishing feature of the exhibition of 1889 was the Eiffel Tower. It is still the tallest structure in the world, measuring 984 feet, which is almost double the height of the Washington Monument.

All during the XIX, century the rulers of France, whatever the political party to which they belonged, showed an especial pride in beautyfying the capital, Paris. Napoleon I[er] (1805-1806) erected the triumphal arch which stands at the entrance of the Champs-Elysées. This « Arc de l'Etoile » is the largest of its sort in the world. On the façade of one of the side arches the carving in high-relief by Rude represents the volunteers of the Revolution marching to victory. The twelve avenues which lead to the Arc de l'Etoile were named for the greatest battles and the most renowned generals of the Revolution and

the First Empire : Iéna, Wagram, Friedland, Hoche, Marceau, etc.

Napoleon III, in turn, added considerably to the beauty and to the practical convenience of Paris. Certain of the city's very old quarters still give an idea of the picturesque but unsanitary conditions in which many Parisians were formerly obliged to live. Whole blocks of houses were replaced during the Second Empire by broad boulevards, by squares and parks, among them the Boulevards Saint-Michel, Saint-Germain, Haussmann, familiar to all Americans.

The Paris Opera House is also due to the inspiration of Napoleon III. Although it seats only 2,158 people, it covers almost three acres of ground and is the largest theatre in the world. The sumptuous staircase and the very magnificent foyer, are typical expressions of the voluntarily imposing taste of the Second Empire.

Another gift for which the world may be grateful to Napoleon III is that of the Bois de Boulogne, a park of 2,250 acres (nearly three times as large as Central Park in New York).

The charm of the Bois lies in its stretches of woodland, which make it seem like a small forest at the very gates of Paris. The Avenue du Bois de Boulogne is famous as the rendez-vous of fashion during the Paris « Season ». It is 420 feet wide and stretches from the Arc de l'Etoile to the entrance of the Bois.

At the time of the last Exposition Universelle, in 1900, Paris was again made more perfect by the opening of a magnificent avenue which spans the river and joins the Champs-Elysées with the Invalides. The bridge Alexandre III, and the two Palaces which

flank it, are as fine as any contribution to modern municipal architecture.

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In spite of the efforts of the Germans to impose their point of view upon the intellects of the universe, the most sympathetic figure of the scientific world during the last century is unquestionably the French chemist and bacteriologist, Pasteur.

Pasteur.

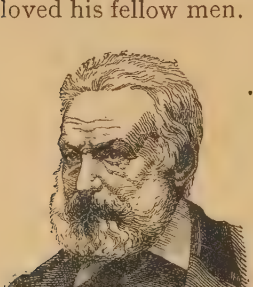
Pasteur was born in Dôle, near Dijon, in 1822, in a small house where his father made a humble living as a tanner. A few years ago, the American millionnaire John D. Rockefeller happened to see this house as he was automobiling through Dôle. He stopped long enough to buy it and give it to the little town which was proud and grateful to make of it a museum of souvenirs. Pasteur's father had been one of Napoleon's brave soldiers. He had won a decoration for his gallant conduct on the battlefield. One of the sentiments commemorated by the children of Dôle to-day is the love of their great Pasteur for this father and for his mother.

Though Pasteur made many discoveries, such as a perfected system for filtering water and for the conservation of beer, etc., etc. — he gave these inventions to the public, preferring to die poor rather than to commercialize science, which he believed should belong to all.

His most important contribution toward the re-

lief of human suffering was that of the vaccine against hydrophobia.

Unlike the German bacteriologists who are associated only with microbes, Pasteur was first of all a humanitarian. He believed religiously in God and he loved his fellow men. The nobility of his character, the serenity of his personality attracted everyone who approached him. His theories revolutionized modern science.



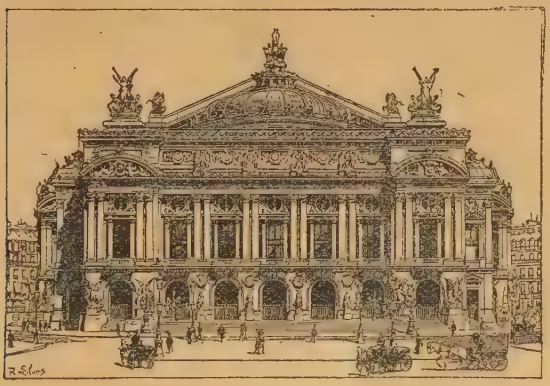
Victor Hugo.

A personage of equal grandeur in the literary world of the XIX century was Victor Hugo. His father, a General in the French army, was a native of Lorraine. Victor Hugo was born in 1802, in the picturesque town of Besançon. For three quaters of a century he filled the world with the beauty of his songs, in poetry and in prose, his dramas, his novels.

It is true that the literature of a country follows rather than creates its political movements. Victor Hugo's writings were the expression in fiction of the struggle which had overwhelmed society for a hundred years. He symbolized the conflict of privilege and responsibility. In his immortal story, *The Miserables*, he chose as his hero, Jean Valjean, a criminal who had been unjustly condemned to long years of service in the galleys, but who, once free again, bore in his ever human heart the longing for love. The regeneration of Jean Valjean begins through the chance encounter with a man who embodies the democratic and humanitarian principles

for which the French have fought repeatedly since the days of their first Revolution.

Thus, whether it be in science or in letters, the vision of the great French men never fails to grasp and to



The Great Opera House in Paris.

become the exponent of the suffering which love and human tenderness alone can remedy.

The political Constitution adopted on February 25, 1875, is still in vigor. By its terms the President is named for seven years. He is not elected by direct, popular vote, but by the Senators and Deputies united in a National Assembly, or Congress, held at Versailles.

At the last general elections in May, 1914, there were 602 Deputies chosen. Since the war, there have been no elections, not even to replace the members of both Houses who have died or been killed in action. In peace times, the Chamber is renewed entirely every four years.

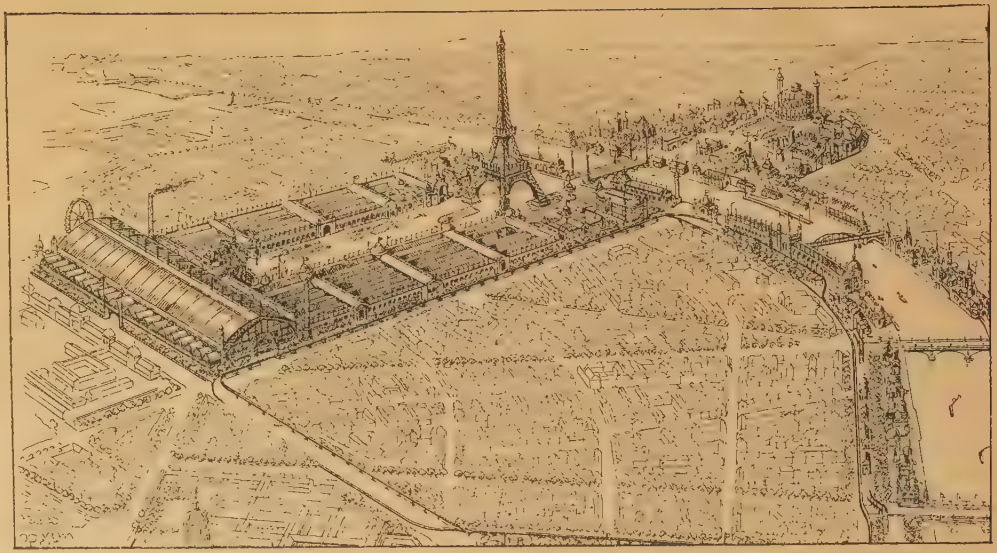
One third of the 300 Senators who compose the Upper House are renewed every three years, the full term being nine years.

The Eiffel Tower.

The principal difference between our government and that of France is that the President names only his Prime Minister, who in turn has full power to appoint his cabinet officers. The individual ministers, of Finance, of War, of Justice, etc., all take part in the political discussions at the Chamber of Deputies, at which they must be present, even though they need not necessarily be themselves members of the Chamber.

The President never appears at either House. He promulgates the laws voted by both Houses, and ensures their execution. He has not the right of veto, but he can, with the consent of the Senate, dissolve the Chamber of Deputies; in this case, which has occurred only once, new elections take place immediately.

The President of the French Republic to-day is



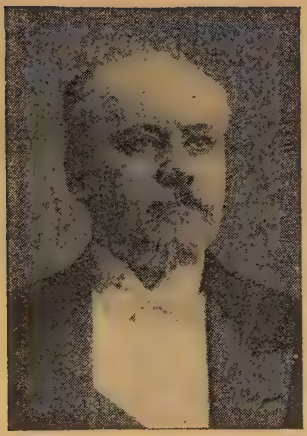
General plan of the Universal Exhibition held in Paris, in 1889.

Raymond Poincaré (born 1856). He was elected in 1913. The house in which the President lives during his term of office is the Palace of the Elysée, in the Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Paris.

The somewhat restricted personal power of the President is the only remaining indication that the French still feel the lurking dread of a dictator. It is true that the divisions in the two Houses, the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, are made, not on commercial questions such as free trade, nor on moral questions such as temperance, but on purely political matters, on matters of governmental form. A glance at the House in session shows that class distinction still exists in France as one of the heritages of the system of privilege.

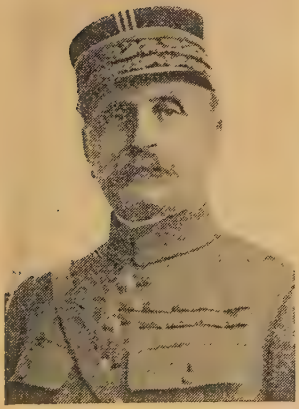
The task of those who have directed the destinies of the nation since 1871 has been twofold : to maintain the political balance in favor of democratic ideals, and to determine, legally, the greatest possible social progress. The various institutions of every sort, public instruction, the administration of the railroads, the development of French industries, the growth of the French cities, etc., etc., will be made the subject of study in the next volume of this series, to be published shortly under the title of « A Popular Geography of France ».

The way in which the « poilus » have comported themselves on the battlefield during this war, the presence among them of such leaders as Joffre, Pétain, Foch, Maunoury, Castelnau, Mangin, Gouraud, etc., etc., attest sufficiently to the fact that the French, individually and collectively are great enough to live up to the magnificient ideals set forth throughout their whole long history, and summarized in the watch words of their Revolution : Liberty, Equality, Fraternity !



President POINCARÉ.

JOFFRE,
French Generalissimo, 1914–1916.



FOCH,
Generalissimo of the Allied Armies.

General PETAIN,
French Generalissimo, 1917–1918.

THE FRENCH COLONIES

The French colonies and protectorates are spread about in various parts of the world and they cover an area of about 4,000,000 square miles in all, with a population, native and white, of 44,600,000 souls.

The Report of the Budget Commission for 1914 gives the following details concerning the area and population of the colonial domain of France :

	SQ. M.	POP.
IN ASIA :		
India (Pondichéry, etc.)	196	273,000
Annam, Cambodia, Cochin-China, Tonking, Laos	309,980	14,500,000
IN AFRICA :		
Algeria	222,067	5,563,828
Sahara	1,544,000	800,000
Tunis	45,799	1,878,620
Senegal	1,585,810	1,250,000
Upper Senegal and Niger		5,100,000
Guinea		1,900,000
Ivory Coast		1,400,000
Dahomey		900,000
Mauritania		250,000
Congo	553,030	3,900,000
Reunion	970	174,000
Madagascar	226,015	3,258,000
Mayotte	840	94,400
Somali Coast	5,790	14,000
IN AMERICA :		
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	96	4,200
Guadeloupe	688	212,500
Martinique	378	185,000
Guiana	31,060	48,800
IN OCEANIA :		
New Caledonia, Tahiti, etc.	8,744	81,100

The French possessions in India, in America, and part of those in the Senegal, have belonged to France for about three hundred years. All the other colonies have been acquired since the middle of the nineteenth century. The Ministry of the Colonies controls the administration of the colonies which, however, exercise some measure of self-government. The older colonies have direct representatives in the French legislature : Réunion, Martinique and Guadeloupe send each a senator and two deputies to Congress ; Senegal, Guiana and Cochin-China each a deputy, etc. (It will be remembeed that thus far no British Colony has ever had a representative in the English Parliament.)

Algiers, the most valuable of the French possessions, outside of France, is considered not as a colony, but as a part of the mother country. Tunis and Morocco are attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, somewhat in the manner of our territories.

The colonial army, which has played a brilliant part in the present war, is entirely distinct from the metropolitan army. It consists partly of white, partly of native troops. The colonial troops are recruited principally by voluntary enlistment, but conscription is applied in West Africa when the case demands.

Before the War the numbers of the troops in Algiers and Tunis was about 85,000 ; in the remainder of the colonial army there was a total of about 60,000 men. It is impossible to state what the figures are at the present date, but everyone has remarked the loyalty of these overseas troops, some of them black men from the heart of Africa. They have adopted France as their mother country and they give their lives gloriously in her defence.

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Charles IV, le Bel (the Beautiful), his brother	1322-1328

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François II, his son	1559-1560
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THE CAPETIANS-BOURBONS

(Descended from Robert, count of Clermont, 6th son of Saint Louis.)

Henri IV	1589-1610
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THE FIRST EMPIRE

Napoleon I, Emperor	1804-1814-1815

THE RESTORATION

Louis XVIII, brother of Louis XVI	1814-1824
Charles X, his brother	1824-1830

BOURBONS-ORLÉANS

(Descended from Philippe d'Orléans, brother of Louis XIV.)

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THE SECOND EMPIRE

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Emile Loubet —	1899-1906
Armand Fallières —	1906-1913
Raymond Poincaré —	1913

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